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HOME TOPICS.

THE fate of Lord John's "Resolutions" about Education has not been wholly deplorable. We have had the whole of that very important subject before us again. Lord John has had an opportunity of showing his knowledge. Sir James Graham has achieved another change—one of a thousand since he first bloomed out as a violent Hull Radical, and "Cock of the North." We make no apology for reverting to the Education question; its importance cannot be exaggerated. Its discussion opens a dozen curious points of inquiry, and, prominently among them, the old one of local self-government *versus* centralisation. We foresaw that this last cry would be fatal to Lord John, and we were not deceived.

For the present we are at this point,—that a Government scheme of education is not probable. We are still to struggle on with voluntary efforts, aided by these Privy Council Grants, "by which," says Lord John, "540,000 scholars are receiving instruction every day." No doubt that even this system improves our instruction yearly. But we improve so slowly! We are still one of the worst-educated peoples in Europe, as certainly as we are one of the richest.

Some people step in at this stage, and pooh-pooh education altogether. Mr. H. Drummond, whose speeches are all paradox and point, is one of these. You confound, he says, education with instruction. You can give instruction which will make people no better; you cannot give education at all. And he instanced an instructed scoundrel or two, to show us that what we can do may as likely lead to mischief as not.

Now, there is, of course, a wide distinction between the moral influences which belong to home and example, and the teaching which is communicated through books. The distinction may be usefully dwelt on, too. But when you come to act practically, you will find that you cannot separate them so easily. In the first place, there is a whole class of urchins who get no moral "education"—no home education—or a bad one. Will

school "instruction" do nothing for them? It is mere reading and writing! Yes; but the learning to read opens a new world of influences; and there are books quite as elevating companions as the best men going—

"Round which, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,
Our pastime and our happiness may grow,"

says Wordsworth. How can you separate the "instruction" which teaches a man to read the English poets, from the "education" he will get out of the study of them? Will not the last follow from the first? On these grounds we defend Latin and Greek, when ingenious people tell us that boys learning them at school learn only "words." We know that the "words" of an ancient poet or historian bring moral associations with them—stories of Spartan valour, Roman faith, and images of Athenian beauty; that these insensibly form the character, and that their influence may survive even after

the languages have been forgotten in which they were first acquired. No doubt, a villain is found among cultivated as among uncultivated men. Philosophers cannot divide the moral and intellectual faculties accurately enough to explain why; but we are not to neglect the good for fear of helping the bad. A young Humphry Davy must learn chemistry, though another lad with him be made an accomplished poisoner. The villainous one would probably have poisoned clumsily in any case. The good the Davy does overbalances the harm of a score of such. The same science which teaches one man to give strychnine, teaches another to detect it in a *post-mortem*. We are ashamed to see a clever man, like Mr. Drummond, reminding us of our difficulties, instead of helping us to remove them. But the fact is, that your crotchety people get tired of anything that is popular. With all our squabbles, we are anxious in England to get education spread; Mr. Drummond feels "bored" by the subject, and kicks out right and left.

The education which we do give is certainly of a too exclusively practical character; Mr. Dickens, in his "Hard Times," has admirably illustrated this. Our education, like our Prison system, bears too much the trace of the Utilitarians and Bentham. They were good men and able men, and wished well to England, in their way; but they were rather wooden: they addressed themselves too much to the head alone. They made little of the faculties of wonder and of imagination, and of the importance of sentiment; but this is a fault more or less of the whole age. A Benthamite education is infinitely better than none at all. We must make the most of mere "reading and writing," when the alternative is black night and intellectual torpor.

Let us now turn to Lord J Russell's plans, and the causes of their failure. Lord John—thinking, as we do, that our present state is so bad as to claim *any* remedy—made some bold proposals. He was going to appoint eighty sub-inspectors. These inspectors were to visit all places of education in England. Where it was found that voluntary sub-



GRANDFATHER'S WATCH.—(FROM A PAINTING BY W. GOODALL.)

scription did not do enough, power was to be given to the ratepayers to levy an education rate. In still worse cases, the rate was to be compulsory. England was to be divided into districts for educational purposes; people were to appoint their own schoolmasters; after two years the Quarter Sessions were to have the power of imposing school rates, in cases where they were necessary. And as for the grave religious question, Lord John thinks that if the Bible be taught, no more need be insisted on.

The opposition to this apparently harmonious and plausible scheme was of all kinds. First of all came the Voluntaries, headed by Baines. The scheme, said they, was contrary to the "national character." We fear that ignorance and this national character have some mysterious relationship; else, why—if you reject Lord John—not produce something new of your own? The national character very properly cherishes local government; but something has always been sacrificed by this power, for the sake of something else. Once you could not leave a village without blowing a horn, that the local authorities might know you were off; once the Earl of Derby governed Derby and the neighbourhood, as the Duke of Weimar does Weimar; once the "corporation," among them, elected the member for the Borough; once the great peers sent down and told the gentry whom to bring in for the county. All these were natural once on a time, like other local powers—like the charm of the well of Castalia or of the oracle of Delphi; but now London governs more than it did, because the wit and wisdom of England find their way more to London. Centralisation is only necessary because the local life is not what it was. When Scotland is losing its nationality, Pleb-Biddlecum need not be jealous of its rights over a dame school; at all events, let us see our local luminaries showing some vigour in their places, and we shall not advocate more power to Downing Street. Downing Street only "attracts" them in proportion to their loss of strength by natural decay; they are safe from being absorbed in it, just as they have centrifugal force. But society has its laws as well as the planets; and sure we are that Downing Street will ultimately have railways, education, police, and everything, in its hands; it things go on as they are going on now.

Our object is to show the duties which opposing a measure like Lord John's puts upon people. No doubt, the difficulties it presented were great. People would not like to pay if the State paid too; that is, because the State was doing its best, the Voluntaries would sulk and neglect their duties. People would not pay rates if they could help it, especially at the bidding of the Quarter Sessions. People do not think the Bible enough; in fact, prefer their own view of the Bible to the book itself. We do not hold that Lord John's measure was a model of wisdom; but, certes, much of the opposition to it was merely selfish, and does not argue a high tone of public feeling.

It is unfortunate for Lord John that he should have failed so completely in what was a kind of bid for a fresh lease of power as a social reformer. Sir James Graham's desertion of his opinions shows that he is making for new associations, in the shape of middle class liberalism, to which Mr. Gladstone, on one side of his nature, likewise inclines. These Peelite movements may show us how little real Toryism there was in Peel after all, and that his conservatism was but a skilful adaptation of old watchwords to new times.

The Crimean inquiry, as far as we can see, will end in nothing but another Blue-book. Indeed, how can it end? Shall Lord Lucan be sent to a court-martial? If so, he must have his courts-martial on committee-officers, &c.; and these will cry out against Lord Lucan on the one hand, and the Government on the other. The inquiry is a private one man's blame in the whole business of the Crimean war, and the story, so far from showing that they were "everybody's fault," in her tends to show that they were "everybody's fault" to lead. In the eyes of the country this is by no means the same thing; but, for purposes of punishment, it *de facto* is. We do not think that Lord Lucan showed himself a good officer; indeed, his head seems as bad as his temper. He cannot explain why he did not get his horses under canvas, for instance. But you cannot punish him for not being a man of parts: and cannot he complain that his horses were taken from him and turned into transport horses—that he was sent to a foreign land—that he did not know when or where his cavalry might be moved in that inclement weather—and so forth? And do not all blunders on the spot connect themselves, more or less directly, with the great home blunder, which ignored the possibility of wintering in the Crimea at all? If you begin to punish, where are you to stop? Nevertheless, the inquiry brings information which is worth studying, and will bring down reputations to their proper level. Truth is truth, come what may. We fear that the effect on the public mind of our not very glorious peace, and our very many pitiful exposures, will not be favourable to the "rejoicings" talked of for the coming May.

GRANDFATHER'S WATCH.

(See Engraving on previous page.)

GRANDFATHER'S watch is battered and old,
Innocent quite of jewel or gold;
Poor, and common, and worn, and crack'd—
Much like Grandfather's self, in fact.
Yet its wheezy voice has a cheerful sound,
And the child, as she listens in wonder bound
To its mystic tales of departed time,
Is smiling as though at a pleasant rhyme.

What are the tales the old watch tells?
Of seventy years it counts the knells;
Years, whose every setting sun
Was mark'd by labour faithfully done.
With primitive form and clumsy skill,
And clumsier help when the works went ill;
Yet serving their time as best they can—
This is the story of Watch and man!

Many a fall has the old watch hush'd,
Many a blow has the old man crush'd.
Meddled with, tinkler'd, and sorely tried,
At last rejected and thrown aside
For modern rivals, all science and gold,
Useless, crippled, despised, and old,
Under a cloud and under a ban—
This is the story of watch and man!

But there's a reverse to the picture sad;
Human hearts they can still make glad.
The watch in its dented silver case
Can bring a smile to the fair child's face.
The man all battered, and silvery too,
With a moral can cheer both me and you—
"Mark our time as well as we can"—
This is the lesson of watch and man!

B.

COLONEL TURN, according to a despatch from Malta, of the 9th, has been released by Austria on the demand of England, and is now on his way to Constantinople.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

On Saturday last the Emperor gave a grand banquet in the "Salle de Marechaux," in the Tuileries, to the members of the Congress. All the members of the Congress were invited, together with the Foreign Ministers, the Cardinals, the Ministers of the Emperor, the Marshals, the Grand Officers of the Crown, the Ambassadors of France to London, the Governor of the Invalides, the Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour, &c. After dinner his Imperial Majesty addressed his guests in the following words:—

"I propose a toast to the union so happily re-established between the Sovereigns. May it be durable; and it will be so, if it reposes on truth, justice, and the true and legitimate interests of the people."

It appears to be certain that the 9th of June is the day fixed for the baptism of the Imperial Prince. The programme of the baptism of the King of Rome is adopted for this occasion. The ceremony will take place in Notre Dame. The Imperial Prince will be taken to St. Cloud on leaving the Cathedral. The Emperor and Empress will dine on the day of the christening at the Hotel de Ville, where, after a grand banquet, there will be a fête in the evening. Fêtes will be given successively at Versailles, St. Cloud, and other Imperial residences.

Prince Jerome left the Palais Royal on Sunday, for the first time since his serious illness. He paid a visit to the Emperor and Empress, and saw the Imperial Prince. On leaving the Tuileries, his Imperial Highness took an airing in the Champs Elysees and the Bois de Boulogne.

The "Pays," alluding to a report that Prince Napoleon would go to St. Petersburg on the occasion of the approaching coronation of the Czar, says it would be contrary to all precedent that France should be represented at this ceremony by a prince of the blood, and expresses a belief that the rumour is unfounded.

SPAIN.

TELEGRAPHIC despatches received at Madrid, state that serious disturbances took place at Valencia, on Sunday, the 6th inst., on the occasion of balloting for the military conscription, which some of the people there endeavoured to prevent. The authorities proclaimed the city under martial law, but this had no effect, and force had to be resorted to. At 7 p.m. order was restored. Senor Escosura, Minister of the Home Department, gave explanations on the subject in the Cortes, adding, that the Government were determined to cause the laws to be respected and obeyed. A later despatch says:—"A new municipality has been appointed for Valencia. The Government is proceeding with energy. Tranquillity continues."

AUSTRIA.

A CIRCULAR, dated the 5th, has, it is said, been addressed by the Austrian Government to its agents abroad. In this document, a *resumé* is given of the policy followed by Austria in Eastern affairs. The Congress is thus referred to, and amongst other words the following are used:—"Never has been seen so much disinterestedness on one side, and so much abnegation on the other." Speaking of Turkey, the note expresses a confidence that this State, which but lately was near its ruin, will, thanks to its entry into the European family, now recover itself. The circular then enumerates the advantages secured by the Treaty of Paris, especially in all that concerns the free navigation of the Danube; and terminates by invoking the aid of all Governments and of all well-meaning men to heal the wounds occasioned by the events of the last few years.

The "Gazette des Postes" says, the synod at Vienna is occupied with the establishment of ecclesiastical tribunals for matrimonial causes. New measures against the press are being adopted, and various propositions by the Austrian Government are undergoing examination. A new law upon marriage, and projects of law, providing an indemnity to the convents for the suppression of the serfage of the peasants, and bringing into harmony the administration of temporal and ecclesiastical justice, are under discussion.

PRUSSIA.

It is the intention of the Prussian police, says a despatch, dated Berlin, April 11, to depute a trustworthy and well-informed agent to London, for the purpose of watching over the revolutionary propaganda of the German refugees.

In some circles at Berlin, the idea has obtained entrance and circulation, that Prussia will avail herself of the present Conference at Paris to introduce the subject of Neuchâtel, and obtain the consent of the various great Powers of Europe to a common step for restoring that Canton of Switzerland (as it has become since 1848) to the fealty of its former Prince Protector, Friedrich Wilhelm the Fourth of Prussia.

The paid-up subscription, for making a provision for the family of the late President of Police, Herr von Hinckeldey, amounted, on April 12, to 20,600 thalers. Contributions had to come in both from Vienna and London.

RUSSIA.

THE Emperor Alexander has recently accorded to the nobility of Livonia, Esthonia, and Courland, letters of favour, which guarantee to them all their rights, customs, advantages, and privileges during the reign of his Imperial Majesty.

The "Journal de St. Petersburg" of the 5th inst., contains the following:—"His Majesty the Emperor deigned, on the 3rd, to authorise from to-day the free exportation from the Empire of all species of grain, according to the regulations before established."

The Russian Government has had a limited number of copies of the peace manifesto taken off on good paper, in various coloured inks, with ingenious drawings and arabesques surrounding the text on the broad margin. Some of these copies have found their way to Berlin.

ITALY.

Two assassinations have been recently committed in Milan. One of a Dr. Majoli, director of the principal hospital, who was stabbed in the abdomen when ascending the stairs of the hospital leading to his own apartments; the other a person of the name of Marselle, who was assassinated in the street one evening in the week. The latter is said to have been a police spy, but no real clue has been discovered either to the perpetrators or to their probable motives.

The "Independence" of Brussels, of the 10th, quotes a letter from Turin, stating that the Neapolitan Government is about to publish a supplementary decree, reducing the duty on exports by one-half.

TURKEY.

ACCOUNTS from Constantinople of the 31st ult. state that the special law relative to the right of property of Europeans in Turkey, will be promulgated very shortly.

The news from Constantinople to the 3rd inst., state that the Divan had come to a decision to permit the entry of Russian merchant ships into the Bosphorus.

The "Journal de Constantinople" states that the disturbances at Hedjaz still continue, and that the Porte had taken measures to put them down. The same journal speaks of other disturbances having broken out in the province of Kaskiri.

The news of the peace had been celebrated at Constantinople by general illuminations. The Greeks were specially observed to give way to rejoicing, discharging fire-arms, &c.

Letters from Yarna report some turbulent manifestations on the part of the Greeks. Six thousand of the latter had assisted at the funeral of a young Greek, who, it was reported, had been assassinated by a Turkish pacha. In the church a Bulgarian delivered a most vehement discourse, demanding justice.

The French papers publish the following:—"Correspondence from Asia states that Mecca and Djeddah continue in a state of open insurrection: 60,000 men in arms refuse to acknowledge the authority of the new governor appointed at Constantinople. The governor has retired to Cairo, and asks for troops from his government. It is thought that the Porte will commission the Viceroy of Egypt to make an expedition into Arabia. There has also been a revolt in Kurdistan. A chief has refused to pay taxes to the pacha of the province, and the populace has taken part with him. There has been a fight. Further particulars are looked for."

AMERICA.

ADVICES from New York to April 2, state that the Court of Appeals—the supreme judicial authority in the State of New York—has decided the

Prohibitory Liquor Law unconstitutional, and of necessity the law is at once blotted from the statute book. It is thought that this decision settles the question virtually for the whole country.

The telegraph news from New Orleans is of the highest importance. The steam-ship *Daniel Webster* had reached that port from Nicaragua on April 1. It was supposed that this vessel had been seized by Walker, as she did not arrive at her regular time. Costa Rica has formally declared war against Nicaragua, and Colonel Schlessinger, the Nicaraguan envoy, having been sent out of the country, had joined Walker with 250 men. As soon as the news reached Walker, he advanced with 500 of his best troops towards Guano Castle. He has now nearly or quite 2,000 perfectly equipped United States riflemen under his command. At the latest news, the forces of the two states had not met, but an engagement was soon expected. Different opinions prevail, but the common impression, among those who have traced the progress of affairs most carefully, is, that the effeminate half-breeds of Costa Rica can offer no effectual resistance to the well-trained desperate followers of "the Great Philibuster." It is stated on all sides, that Costa Rica began hostilities, and with no aggressive movement on the part of Walker. At Washington, the administration is still undecided what course to take.

THE CRIMEA.

SKELETONS OF MEN AND HORSES DISCOVERED BY THE DIVER AT SEBASTOPOL.—The Russians do not disguise their joy at the prospects of peace, and, indeed, they must have suffered enormously in the siege. They say that the shot of the Allies sometimes struck their hosts full of men crossing from the north side, and sunk them; and they take pride in relating the horrors of the siege. Some of them will never be known. Mr. Deane, the diver, has, however, brought others to light. Close by the ruins of Fort Paul, whence the bridge started to the north side, he discovered, at the bottom of the harbour, a battery of field-artillery, horses, men, and all, entangled in the network of leather. He has fished up five field-pieces and two howitzers. They are all filled with mud, but they can soon be made fit for Woolwich. The wood of the carriages has been utterly destroyed by the *teredo navalis*, or whatever it is which lives on such hard fare or in such hard quarters as the best old oak affords. On the skeleton of one of the horses there were the bones of a driver held together by the rags of his uniform, and with his foot still in the stirrup!—*Crimean Letter.*

THE KAZARCHOW OR KAZARSKY MONUMENT AT SEBASTOPOL.

OUR readers will remember a couple of representations which appeared in our paper, Nos. 19 and 21, shortly after the downfall of Sebastopol, of a singular Russian monument, consisting of a rather elegantly-shaped bronze galley. A correspondence respecting this monument has recently appeared in the columns of the "Times." The writer of a letter from the Crimea having spoken of the deplorable condition of the monument in question, Mr. C. H. Money wrote to the leading journal as follows:—

"It would seem that the inscription is now quite illegible, most of the letters having been either stolen or knocked away, and the pedestal itself having nearly disappeared. It may interest some of your readers to know what were the few words of this celebrated inscription, which served as an incentive to future heroes as much as a memorial of the department one."

"On the north side, facing Fort Nicholas, and in the written language of the church (which is different from the ordinary character) were the words, 'To Kazarchow,' pronounced, of course, 'Kazarschoff.'"

"For posterity to serve as an example."

"On the south side, it bore the name alone, and the date 1854."

"The word for 'posterity' being written *PO TOMUKI* was the cause of the belief that was general in the camp, that the monument bore some connection, more or less close, with the far-famed Potemkin."

To the question, "Who was Kazarchow?" Mr. Money replies in a subsequent letter:—

"I visited his monument in the morning immediately succeeding the evacuation of the town by the Russians, and it was then entirely undefaced. My information about both monument and its hero was mainly derived from a Russian officer (a prisoner on parole, with whom I wandered through the whole town, and who had lived in Sebastopol for many years."

"I ascertained that Kazarchow was in the navy, and I believe an admiral, and that his birth-place was either Sebastopol itself, or some spot in the Crimea. The great regard paid to the hero's memory by the defenders of Sebastopol may be shown by the striking fact, that whereas everything of a secular nature was voluntarily and entirely annihilated in the town, and everything of a religious nature was most touchingly spared, the monument of Kazarchow, on the 9th of September, stood as sacredly intact as if it had been a church, and still smiled upon Fort Nicholas, the only memorial, national or otherwise, that was really preserved of the worldly pride of the Russian stronghold."

Another correspondent, we presume Mr. Watts, of the British Museum, the well-known Russian scholar, gives the following about the hero of this monument:—

"The inscription on the monument at Sebastopol was 'Kazarskonu. Potomstvu v premye. 1854 Goda.' 'To Kazarsky. As an example to posterity, 1854.' It was erected in honour of Alexander Ivanovitch Kazarsky, who died on the 16th of June, 1855, old style, at the age of thirty-three, at Nicolaieff, where he is buried. Kazarsky was in 1829 in command of the Russian 18-gun brig Mercury, which was cruising, in company with the frigate Standard and the brig Orpheus, near the Bosphorus, on the 14th of May, old style, when they were destroyed by the Turkish fleet in great force, which gave chase. The other Russian vessels escaped into the port of Siozopol, where the Russian fleet was then lying; but the Mercury, separated from its companions, was overtaken by the two best sailers in the Turkish fleet, one vessel bearing the flag of the Captain Pachla, of 110 guns, and another of 74. Kazarsky, finding it impossible to escape an action, called a council of war, at which one of the officers, Prokopyev, proposed to blow the brig into the air. It was unanimously agreed that this should be done, but not till they had defended the brig to the utmost; but that, when it could be defended no longer, they should grapple with one of the enemy's ships, and blow up the powder magazine. In a short time, the Turkish vessels were both within shot, one on each side of the Mercury, and the Russians were summoned from the Captain Pachla to strike their flag. They replied with a discharge of all arms, and a fight began, which lasted three hours, the result of which, owing to the skilful manœuvring and the desperate bravery of Kazarsky's crew, was, that first the Captain Pachla's vessel, and then the 74, relinquished the contest, leaving the Mercury to make the best of its way home. The Emperor Nicholas promoted Kazarsky for the action, made him a Knight of St. George, of the Fourth Class, allowed to the whole of the officers and crew a double pension, and decreed that for the future one brig in the Russian service should always bear the name of the Mercury, 'that the memory of such distinguished services, descending for ever, from generation to generation, should serve as an example to posterity.'"

SUSPICIOUS MORTALITY AMONG ARTILLERY HORSES AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

A very suspicious epidemic has broken out among the artillery horses belonging to the battery stationed at Galata Serai. On Wednesday, March 26th, the horses were as usual taken to be watered at the troughs erected within the enclosure of the building. Soon after they returned, the horses, which had been quite well before and in excellent condition, began to show symptoms of uneasiness; they refused to eat, and became restless. This restlessness soon turned into a spasmodic nervousness; the horses began to tremble in all their limbs, and the palpitations of the heart were so violent that they could be distinctly heard. In spite of the efforts of the veterinary surgeons attached to the battery, these symptoms in some of the horses soon changed into a state of the most acute agony. They stood up erect on their hind legs, or threw themselves in violent convulsions on the ground. The muscles seemed to become rigid in some, while others swelled to an enormous size. By next morning, thirteen of them were dead, while all the horses which had gone out first to water were more or less ill. Several of the horses were opened, but nothing was found except a congestion of the intestines, scarcely sufficient to cause death. Since then, the intestines have been sent to Scutari to be chemically examined by an analytical commission formed for the purpose. All the circumstances which have hitherto come to light seem to point out a case of poisoning on a large scale. The first idea suggested was, that some poisonous plant might have impregnated the hay, but, on examination, not only no trace was found of this, but likewise, although all the horses received the hay indiscriminately from the same bales, there were many which were not attacked.

MISS NIGHTINGALE'S "SLIGHT INJURY."—The Crimean correspondent of the "Times" writes:—"I regret to state that Miss Nightingale has received a slight injury from the upsetting of a vehicle, in which, with other sisters, she was coming up to the front of Balaklava. Her back is hurt, and she is at present at the Castle Hospital. We all hope for her speedy and complete recovery."

LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE AND SIR E. LYONS.—We have the best grounds for stating, that there is no truth in rumours which have lately been current, to the effect that Sir Edmund Lyons is about to replace Lord Stratford de Redcliffe as British Ambassador at Constantinople. Sir Edmund has gone to the Mediterranean to resume his command. Lord Stratford, there is no reason to doubt, will retain his post.—*MORNING POST.*

THE IMPERIAL MANIFESTO OF THE CZAR.

The following is a translation of the Imperial Manifesto, published at St. Petersburg on the 1st of April, to announce the signing of the Treaty of Peace:—

"The obstinate and sanguinary struggle which, for nearly three years, has subverted Europe, has at last ceased. It was not Russia that commenced it. Even before it broke out, my late august father, of imperishable memory, solemnly declared to his faithful subjects, and to all the Foreign Powers, that the sole object of his desires and of his efforts had been to protect the rights of our co-nationals in the East, and to put an end to the persecutions to which they were subjected."

"A stranger to all interested views, he never expected that his just complaints (reclamations) would have resulted in the scourge of war; and considering its calamities with a deep feeling of sorrow as a Christian, and as the Father of the people entrusted by Providence to his care, he did not cease manifesting his inclination in favour of peace. But the negotiations which were opened shortly before his death, on the subject of the conditions of that peace, which was a necessity for us all, remained without success."

"The Governments which have formed a hostile coalition against us had not desisted from their armaments; pending the negotiations they had even increased them; the war had to follow its course, and we continued it with firm hope in the protection of the Most High, and firm confidence in the unshaken devotion of our well-beloved subjects. Our expectations were justified. During that period of hard trials, our faithful and brave soldiers, as well as all our people, without distinction of class, proved themselves, as always, worthy of their high calling. Along the whole extent of our empire, from the shores of the Pacific Ocean to the shores of the Baltic and Black Sea, one single idea, one single impulse, animated all, and made them spare neither life nor fortune in the defence of their country. Labourers, leaving their plough and their fields, eagerly took up arms for our holy cause, rivaling in courage and self-denial our veteran soldiers. New and striking deeds of renown have marked this last struggle with powerful adversaries."

"The enemy has been driven back from the coasts of Siberia and from those of the White Sea, as well as from the ramparts of Swenborg; the heroic defence for eleven months of the fortifications of the south side of Sebastopol, erected in the face of and under the fire of the assailants, will be handed down as a record to the remotest posterity."

"In Asia, after the glorious victories of the two preceding campaigns, Kara was compelled to surrender with its numerous garrison, forming the whole army of Anatolia, and the élite of the Turkish troops sent to relieve the place were compelled to retreat. Nevertheless, by the impenebtable and wise decrees of Providence, a fact was preparing conformable to the wishes of our well-beloved august father, to our own, and to those of all Russia, and which realised the objects of the war. The future condition and the privileges of all the Christians in the East are henceforth guaranteed. The Sultan solemnly recognises them, and, consequent upon this act of justice, the Ottoman Empire enters into the family of European States."

"Russians! Your efforts and your sacrifices have not been in vain. A great work has been accomplished, although by other and unforeseen means, and we may now with a quiet conscience put an end to those efforts and to those sacrifices by restoring to our dear country the incalculable blessings of peace. To hasten the conclusion of the treaty of peace, and to dispel, even for the future, the very idea of ambitious views or projects which might be attributed to us, we have consented to the adoption of certain precautionary measures destined to prevent a collision of our ships of war with those of Turkey in the Black Sea, and to the establishment of a new frontier line in the southern part of Bessarabia, nearest to the Danube."

"The concessions are not great when put in comparison with the charges of a prolonged war, and the advantages promised to us by the tranquillity of the Empire, the destinies of which it has pleased God to entrust to us. May all those advantages be obtained by our efforts, united to those of all our faithful subjects. May, with the aid of the Almighty, who has always protected Russia, its internal organisation be consolidated and perfected. May justice and clemency preside over its judgments—may the advancement of civilisation and of all useful activity spread with renewed force—and may every one enjoy in peace the fruits of his labour under the protection of laws equally just and watchful for all! Finally, and this is the most important and most ardent of our hopes, may the salutary light of faith, by enlightening the mind and strengthening the heart, maintain and improve more and more that social morality which is the surest pledge of order and happiness."

"Given at St. Petersburg, the 9th of March (31st), 1856, and in the second year of our reign,"

"ALEXANDER."

THE ASSASSINATION OF MRS. KELLY.—FULL PARTICULARS OF HER LIFE.

As briefly stated in our impression of last week, Mrs. Kelly, hitherto distinguished in the Dublin law courts as the successful tutor in the case of "Kelly v. Thewles," was murdered on the Tuesday, while walking in the grounds adjacent to her residence. The Dublin papers furnish us with the following interesting particulars of her eventful life:—

"Strange and mysterious as has been the death of this lady, it is only when viewed in connection with her past life that it is seen in its true light; that death so awful, so unparalleled in its circumstances, closed a life of almost fabulous incident and change; it terminated a career such as no novelist has ever dreamed of portraying. Sarah Kelly was born at Broadstairs, a watering-place on the coast of Kent, where her father kept an inn. At this inn, about fifty years ago, a young Irishman, named Meredith, the heir of a handsome estate and a baronet, wasjourning. The beauty of the innkeeper's daughter attracted the notice of young Meredith, and he devoted himself but too successfully to the task of her conquest. Miss Birch (for that was her name)—fled with her admirer to the 'Land of the West,' where she in due time presented him with a too convincing token of attachment. Love has been said to fly at sight of 'human ties'; in this case, his light wings spread for want of them; Meredith, the betrayer, abandoned his victim and her infant under circumstances of desertion so heartless as to induce a Dublin jury subsequently to award a sum of £3,000 as damages in an action brought against him for her seduction. The trial took place about 1817, and elicited the forensic art and eloquence of some of the most distinguished advocates of the time. Over the next succeeding chapters of Miss Birch's life we desire to pass with as little of detail as possible. She led the life of adventure and difficulty, of error and shame, into which her previous misfortune and her beauty had, we might almost say, driven her. Mr. Edmund Kelly, gentleman, of Merrion Square, an elderly widower, a land agent, solicitor, and millionaire, became acquainted with her. She gave up her city life, and became his housekeeper; subsequently, it appears, his wife, and mistress of Rookwood House, county of Galway. Mr. Kelly had a daughter by his first wife, but she had disappeared; he had, however, relations who expected to divide, at his decease, the enormous wealth, estimated at £300,000 to £500,000, of which he was the possessor. Miss Birch was not as yet known, or, at any rate, not recognized as Mrs. Kelly. She was, however, most assiduous in her attentions to the old man, who every day grew more weak, more eccentric, and, it is said, more imbecile. Strange stories were told of his last days; how the idea haunted him that he should die of hunger; how his watchful mistress, wife, nurse, or jailor—whatever she was—had his bed-room hung round with catables of every description, stories of a death-bed marriage, of a death-bed will; but how much of all this was truth, and how much fable, can never be satisfactorily ascertained. Mr. Kelly died; Miss Birch claimed the recognition of her position as his widow, and produced a will, entitling her to all the property, real and personal, of the late owner of Rookwood House. His nearest relative, an elderly maiden lady, named Thewles, denied the validity of the will. Her means were slight, but her claim was strong—at least so thought her friends, who advanced her the money sufficient to prosecute her suit at law. Miss Thewles had a verdict in her favour. Mrs. Kelly appealed from the Court of Delegates, but now offers of money flowed plentifully upon Miss Thewles; offers of matrimony came also; she accepted one—that of her confidential solicitor. He was not so successful for his wife as he had been for his client; the verdict in favour of Miss Thewles was totally set aside by the late Chancellor Blackburne in an able judgment upon Mrs. Kelly's application for a Court of Review. Mrs. Kelly now set out to enjoy her wealth; she resided in Merrion Square. One day a poor woman with two little children by the hand pulled the bell, and humbly asked the powdered and gold-laced footman to bear his mistress a note; there was no answer. She called again and often, and as often turned wearily and dejectedly away. It was the daughter of the late Edmund Kelly, who was begging a morsel of all her father's wealth. What a history was hers! She had been brought up with the fondest parental care; she had been placed at a first-rate boarding school in Clifton, in England, where no less than £300 a-year was paid for her. When her father married secondly, she was removed to an inferior school at Bath, and her allowance gradually reduced. After many trials and vicissitudes, chiefly caused by false information as to her father's death, she was at length abandoned, with two children, by a profligate villain, who had married her under the pretence of being her father's agent. She contrived to eke out a livelihood for herself and children as a governess, until she again married a Mr. Morton. She had heard of her father's death, and of his extraordinary will, and of Miss Thewles's action, and she came across to Ireland, to see if Mrs. Kelly would not help her in some way. Mrs. Kelly had a confidential solicitor, named Birch; she called him her nephew; others said he was a nearer relative still. This Mr. George Birch told the applicant that his aunt would do nothing for her, but that he would do something; he made vile proposals to her—and worse. Her husband, Mr. Morton, brought an action for assault, and obtained damages £200, and 6d. costs, against Mr. Birch.

"The wealth of Edmund Kelly seemed to rest never, as if it were fated to be the prolific source of strife and contention, a curse and not a blessing. Mrs. Kelly drove up in great haste one day to a police office in the city, and applied for a warrant against her nephew, George Birch, who had absconded with

£200,000! He was arrested on board the steamer, leaving England for the Continent, but on being brought back not only stood his trial, but challenged a prosecution—none was pressed, we believe; matters were settled. The last appearance of Mrs. Kelly in the law courts was as defendant, sued by the police sergeant who arrested Mr. Birch, for the reward of £500, which, it was alleged, she had offered.

The wealth of the late Mrs. Kelly procured her numerous proposals, and amongst others, one from a ducal suitor, whose family boasted of descent from one of the Stuart kings. The late Earl of Roscommon, too, the descendant of a votary of the Muses, and the friend himself of poets and of literary celebrity, sued her in vain. The hand of a second earl was afterwards offered, but with no better success, the machinations of the late John Sadler having frustrated the union. For many years Mrs. Kelly increased her wealth by money lending and railway speculations; and her advance of £126,000 to the Great Midland Railway of Ireland is said to have saved that company. It is also believed that she lent a helping hand to Mr. William Dargan, when that gentleman set on foot the design of the Dublin Exhibition. Of late, Mrs. Kelly had forgotten her old habits, and had devoted herself steadily to the improvement of her Irish estates.

THE INQUEST.

The following additional particulars of this atrocious and mysterious crime are given in the "Freeman's Journal":—

"The inquest was opened on Wednesday (last week). One witness only was examined—a girl who was working in the field where the assassination occurred, and was actually in conversation with Mrs. Kelly when the murderers approached her. The witness said there were about twelve girls and two men in the field picking stones. Mrs. Kelly came into the field about four o'clock p.m., with Mr. Campion and Mr. G. Stevens, her nephews. Mr. Campion left the field by directions of Mrs. Kelly, to settle some accounts, as he was to go to Dublin next day. Mr. Stevens went to where the men were picking stones, and Mrs. Kelly came over to witness to ask if her mother had made up the clothes she had given her, as she (the witness) was to be sent to a situation in Dublin, procured for her by Mrs. Kelly. Just as they were talking, about five yards from the ditch, two men came into the field through the gate, 150 yards from where they stood. They had women's clothes on, and black cloths over their faces, with openings, through which she (the witness) could see one eye. When Mrs. Kelly saw them she appeared to be much alarmed, and caught hold of the witness, who said, 'Don't be afraid, Mrs. Kelly, they are only coming to frighten the children' (meaning the girls, who were picking stones). Mrs. Kelly then ran over towards the ditch, and the murderers followed; and, whilst she was lying on the ground, one man stooped, and fired at Mrs. Kelly's head what witness thought was a pistol, and then stepped aside, upon which his companion did the same. Mr. G. Stevens, who was about ten yards off, began to shout. The two assassins then went over towards him. He ran away, and did not stop till he arrived at the house, where he informed Mr. Campion that Mrs. Kelly had been shot dead. The two assassins went back through the gate by which they came in, and no one saw them afterwards."

"The inquest was then adjourned, in order that Dr. Mathews might make a post mortem examination. The jury then proceeded to where the murder took place, which is fully half a mile from the house, on the top of a hill, from which there is a view for a mile all round. One of the gentlemen sent for a spade, and dug underneath a where the brains of the unfortunate lady lay, and there found a large bullet, about eight inches deep in the ground. The body of Mrs. Kelly was then removed to Dublin."

Upon the inquiry being resumed, the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against two persons unknown. The police, it seems, have found in some of the houses on Mrs. Kelly's lands articles supposed to have been worn by the murderers for disguise; they consider that they have the means of further discoveries. The magistrates are now receiving information in private. There are five persons in custody—Mr. Stevens and four tenants. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has caused a reward of 100*l.* to be offered for such information as may, within six months, lead to the arrest of the assassins of Mrs. Sarah Kelly.

On Tuesday, the remains of the late Mrs. Kelly were interred by the side of her late husband, Mr. Kelly, in the vault purchased by him in Kensal-green Cemetery. The body arrived in London *via* the North-Western Railway, on Saturday night. The remains of the deceased were followed to the grave by her brother, Captain Birch, and three of her nephews.

MEETING OF SWELL MOBSEMS.

A meeting was held last week at the White Lion Tavern, Fashion Street, Brick Lane, Spitalfields, where there was an attendance of about 100 persons, principally belonging to the class known as "Swell Mobsems." The meeting was convened for the purpose of taking the opinion of such characters with respect to the working of an institution which is intended to lend a helping hand to those offenders who may be disposed to "square accounts" with society and to lead an honest life. The room in which the meeting was held was well lighted and comfortable. A free and easy manner prevailed, but everything was carried on decently, the cries of "order" and "chair" being immediately followed by attentive silence.

A stranger would have had no suspicion that the men there assembled were at war with society. They one and all appeared well fed, well clad, and at ease with themselves. In the course of the evening several showily-dressed youths, who were evidently the "aristocracy" of the class, walked into the room. These were mostly habited as clerks or young men in offices, some wearing gold guard-chains, others with pistol keys dangling from their waistcoat pockets, and having diamond pins in their cravats. They were, however, all "mobsems," as they are called—men who in some instances, we are assured, are gaining their 10*l.* or even 20*l.* a week by their light-fingered operations. Indeed, several present were pointed out as "tip-top sawyers," "moving in the best society, and doing a heavy business." Besides these, there were a few notorious "cracksmen" (housebreakers) and one or two "fences" (receivers of stolen goods), who were said to be worth their weight in gold.

On the entry of one who was unknown to the rest, a cry was raised of "Only 'kenobes' there!" "No square men in the room!" which being interpreted, meant only "nobs," or first class thieves—none who are following an honest course of life are to be present; whereupon it was represented to the stranger that the meeting was a private one.

Mr. Henry Mayhew, who had convened the meeting, opened the business of the evening by saying that he was about to found a society for the purpose of assisting those who really and sincerely meant to help themselves. He was aware that many of the men there wished to give up their present courses, and that they would rejoice to see a way of escape from the circumstances in which they were involved. No doubt some of them liked their mode of life, and took a pleasure in it; but others had been driven to it by force of circumstances, by bad treatment at home, by early neglect, and other degrading influences. He had represented the case of such persons to benevolent people, and had found many gentlemen ready to proffer their assistance towards bettering the condition of the well-disposed among them—indeed he had already been promised funds to a large amount immediately the officers of the society were appointed. It remained with themselves to close with such offers, and honestly to strive to redeem their characters, and be upright in all their dealings, as Englishmen and good citizens ought to be. Those who felt inclined to choose the better way would be treated, not as wild animals, requiring a cage, nor yet as children, to be kept in leading-strings, but as full-grown, thinking men, who might be trusted (for he knew there were many of them not insensible to a feeling of honour), and who were capable of appreciating sympathy and confidence. (Applause.) He hoped to be able to found a home and an industrial asylum, as well as an emigration society, for such as were tired of evil courses, and who sincerely wished to retrieve the character they had lost in the world, and he would be happy to learn how far the men present were disposed to embrace a proposal of such a nature.

After some little delay, a decently-dressed young man stepped forward, and said that he wished to state a few things about the "kenobe" life, of which he, for his part, had seen quite enough. They all knew that their way of living was unsatisfactory; they might get £10 in a day, and then go for a fortnight without gaining a penny; or they might have six months of it in prison, which was rather "a cooler." He for one wanted to be rescued from such a life. He confessed he was a thief, but he had seen no end of trouble, and he earnestly wished to reform. If he could only get an honest living, he would not be as he was then.

After various "swell-mobsems" had addressed the meeting, Mr. Mayhew more fully explained the character of the proposed institution. It was intended to establish a lodging-house, he said, to receive the men immediately on their leaving prison. If they had any money which they had earned during their incarceration, they might deposit it in the savings' bank of the institution until an opportunity occurred for advantageously using the amount. A register would be kept of employers willing to give work to such as were disposed to reform, and an assurance given that the persons sent to them would be treated without reference to their past lives. If some men could procure guarantees from their own friends, so much the better; but if not, the society would guarantee the employers to a certain amount. As a rule, however, the men would not be placed in situations of trust, and therefore of temptation, so that few guarantees would be required. If, however, there were any men who, from their former habits, were not disposed to settle down to regular work, arrangements would be made to send such characters out as street-sellers. For those, on the other hand, who wanted to emigrate, an opening would be made and a passage ob-

tained. It was also proposed to connect an industrial school with the establishment, so as to teach trades to such as wished to learn them. In the lodging-house, it was intended that the inmates should make their own laws and regulate their own affairs. They would be treated as if they really desired to elevate themselves, and every credit be given them for virtuous resolves, while all reasonable consideration would be shown for their peculiar circumstances.

In conclusion, a ticket-of-leave man, whose language proved him to be a person of superior education, stated that for some time past he had been "on the square," that is, "he had relinquished his former courses, and lived honestly." He thought that all should not be condemned indiscriminately, and that every man should have a fair chance. When persons, like himself, who could gain their five pounds a week regularly by "ringing the changes" (a mode of passing bad money), were determined to see if they could not earn 30*s.* by honest industry, it was the best possible proof of principle. It showed that they preferred a permanent benefit to the precarious, though deceitful, pleasures of a vagabond life. He had been a thief, and was now an honest man; and having himself been extorted by one of the gentlemen present, he wished to encourage others. They saw present "kenobes" who were evidently about want; why did they come there? It was because they were endeavouring to work out a principle. It was all very well for hungry, destitute men to profess a desire for reformation; but when a man with a pound in his pocket wished to reform, that was another matter; and that was what he wanted to see, for then it was not necessity, but good resolves, that induced it. It was encouraging to see the "big wigs" interested on their behalf; but after all, the real spring of action must come from themselves. Might God and good reason speed them! (Applause.)

The Chairman, having begged them to disperse in an orderly manner, the proceedings terminated.

NAPIER'S MONSTER FLOATING BATTERY.

If the war at the outset found this country ill provided with warlike appliances and material, while the Russian arsenals were filled to overflowing with ammunition of every description, and guns of every calibre, peace has found the two countries under somewhat different circumstances. The stores which the late Czar had been accumulating for years, are now well nigh exhausted. His splendid Black Sea Fleet is among the things that were, and thousands of his cannon will be brought by the Allies as trophies from the Crimean shore. On our side we have not even been content that our dockyards and arsenals should keep our warlike appliances at that same standard at which they were at the outset of the war, but have used the utmost energy to multiply them in every shape and way. Next week, Portsmouth will witness a naval display, which, far from being equalled, has never been approached in the history of the world. A fleet of three hundred sail of the line, steam frigates, and gun-boats, will there manœuvre before the gaze of assembled thousands. These, however, will form but a part of that immense naval armament which the country will shortly have at its command. Ere many days have elapsed, one or more of those monster floating-batteries, of which we have heard so much, will be launched, and when fitted with their 20 guns of the largest calibre, which each of these vessels is to carry, will form a most formidable engine of war in any attack against stone batteries.

The Engraving given on page 264, represents the monster floating battery, *Erebus*, while in course of construction by Messrs. R. Napier and Sons, of Glasgow. This is one of the three contracted for by the Government about the beginning of January, to be delivered in London or Portsmouth on the 15th of the present month, under the heavy penalty of £1,000 per day. The contractors who have had the courage and the enterprise to enter upon such an undertaking are Samuda Brothers, of London; Palmer Brothers, of Newcastle; and Robert Napier and Sons, Glasgow. These vessels are about 2,000 tons burden, framed and plated like an ordinary iron-ship; outside the plating come planks of teak, and over the teak-wood plates of iron four inches thick. This sheathing of wood and iron is of course expected to be proof against any shot which might strike them.

Their form is rather peculiar. They have great breadth of beam, and are very shallow in proportion to their breadth, which is continued to the bow and stem without being much diminished. The sides fall in very much above, and the vessel is very flat in the bottom, to admit of its floating in a small draught of water, rendering it thereby more serviceable by enabling it to be brought close under the walls of forts.

The beams forming the upper or weather deck are exceedingly strong and close together. The plank, which is of teak, is afterwards covered with plate iron. The beams of the lower or fighting deck are also very strong and close, planked with oak.

The officers' cabins, &c., are to be fitted on this deck, all so portable that the fitting can be thrown down in a very short time when required. Underneath this deck there will be the powder magazine, shell-room, store-rooms, &c., &c., fitted up in the same manner as in ships of war. The gun-deck, which will mount 20 guns of the largest calibre, will be ventilated by air tubes supplied from fans placed in the engine-room, driven by a supplementary or donkey engine. The men appointed to keep a look-out are sheltered from shot in small round houses placed on the weather deck, made of very strong plate iron, and a gutta percha tube communicates from these houses to the pilots or steersmen, the steering gear being fitted on the lower or main deck.

The rudder is peculiarly shaped for steering the vessel in deep water, being made to hang downwards below the vessel's keel or bottom when necessary. The vessels are to be propelled by a screw worked by engines of about 200-horse power, high pressure, which are to be supplied by steam from four strong circular boilers.

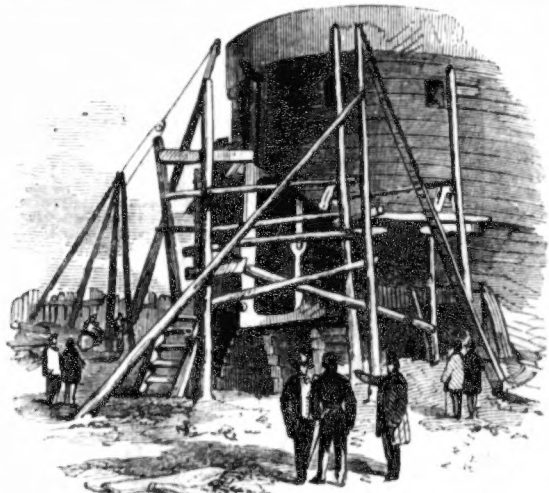
In order to get rapidly forward with this work, the Messrs. Napier have, in addition to their former extensive stock of tools and other appliances requisite for carrying on their extensive business, ten powerful cranes arranged round the sides of the battery, to raise the heavy material; and we are informed that they have about 1,500 men in their own premises, working day and night for this vessel, besides having almost every engineering establishment in Glasgow at work dressing the edges of the armour plates.

The decks and side planks have all been dressed by a very large planing or flooring machine, and cut to the required lengths by an ingenious cross-cutting saw, which we understand has been prepared specially for this undertaking. We were much struck with the simple method adopted for bending the teak-wood planks for going round the bluff bow. The timber being of such a brittle nature, it was found impossible to bend planks so thick as six inches in the usual manner; and although the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had granted permission to the contractors to cut them out of logs to the curves, or to put saw kerps in them, so as to make them bend more easily, or to use oak plank, as they might consider most advantageous, the Messrs. Napier were unwilling to adopt either of the two plans with the teak plank which would tend to lessen the resistance to shot, or to adopt the oak, which is much easier bent, but more injurious to the iron than teak.

In short, everything that skill could devise or capital command has been adopted to get this interesting but destructive work of art completed in the best and most efficient manner, within the specified time. For such an amount of work to be executed in so short a period, appears to us almost marvellous. The interest and anxiety which the workmen have displayed in working day and night since the commencement of this contract, and the aid that has been given by those employed by the Messrs. Napier to supply material and otherwise, in forwarding the undertaking, must be very gratifying to the contractors and satisfactory to the Government.

PREVENTION OF SMOKE AT THE NAVAL REVIEW.—Instruction has been sent by the Admiralty to Sir George Seymour, the Commander-in-Chief of the ships at Portsmouth, to see that all the steam-ships are supplied with Welsh coal, so as to prevent the smoke, which would otherwise obstruct the view of her Majesty and of the company assembled at the naval review, on the 23rd instant, and run the risk of collision. Should the notice be disregarded, "it will be necessary to remove to a distance any vessel causing such inconvenience."

LOUIS NAPOLEON TURNED FARMER.—Louis Napoleon is turning his mind, like other royal personages, to agricultural matters. "It is affirmed," says the "Echo Agricole," "that he has just purchased the old demesne of Fouldene, situate between St. Cloud and Mont Valérien. The intention of his Majesty is to establish on this ground a large model farm, on which will be collected the most improved agricultural implements and the best breed of animals of every kind. This excellent idea has been carried into practice by several sovereigns, particularly in Wurtemberg and in England."



THE STERN OF NAPIER'S MONSTER FLOATING BATTERY.

INTERIOR OF OFFICER'S HUT, FORT PAUL PICKET.

A CRIMEAN hut is, from circumstances to which it would be superfluous to allude, a place of no inconsiderable interest to many of our readers, especially to those of the fair sex. The hut generally contains two rooms, one being the mess-room, and the other the bed-chamber. Both measure, say 18 feet by 18, and thus each is square, and each room has a stove and two windows. Iron bedsteads are used, but the mess-room is, perhaps, quite enough to be here chiefly described. Not a chair has been obtainable, so on chests and seats made out of casks sit this "goodly company." The walls are papered with pictures from Illustrated Papers; and swords, horse-furniture, and other articles, are hung up wherever space is found. Allsorts of bottles, empty, adorn a shelf or two; and a case, from which certain straws hang out, shows that a good supply of full bottles yet remains; while in one corner a cask, with a neat brass tap, tells tales of other Crimean creature comforts; and a long row of sauces, pickles, and preserves, indicates that good eating as well as drinking goes on within the hut. Such, at least, is the description given by Crimean correspondents.

The accompanying engraving represents the interior of an officer's hut, at Fort Paul Picket. It appears that out of the large square stones of Fort Paul, two kinds of huts have been constructed for the officers and men on the picket. Our sketch shows the interior of the officer's hut, with a roaring fire in one corner, the smoke of which ascends, in a primitive fashion, by an opening left for that purpose in the roof.

THE MONASTERY OF ST. GEORGE AND ITS ENVIRONS.

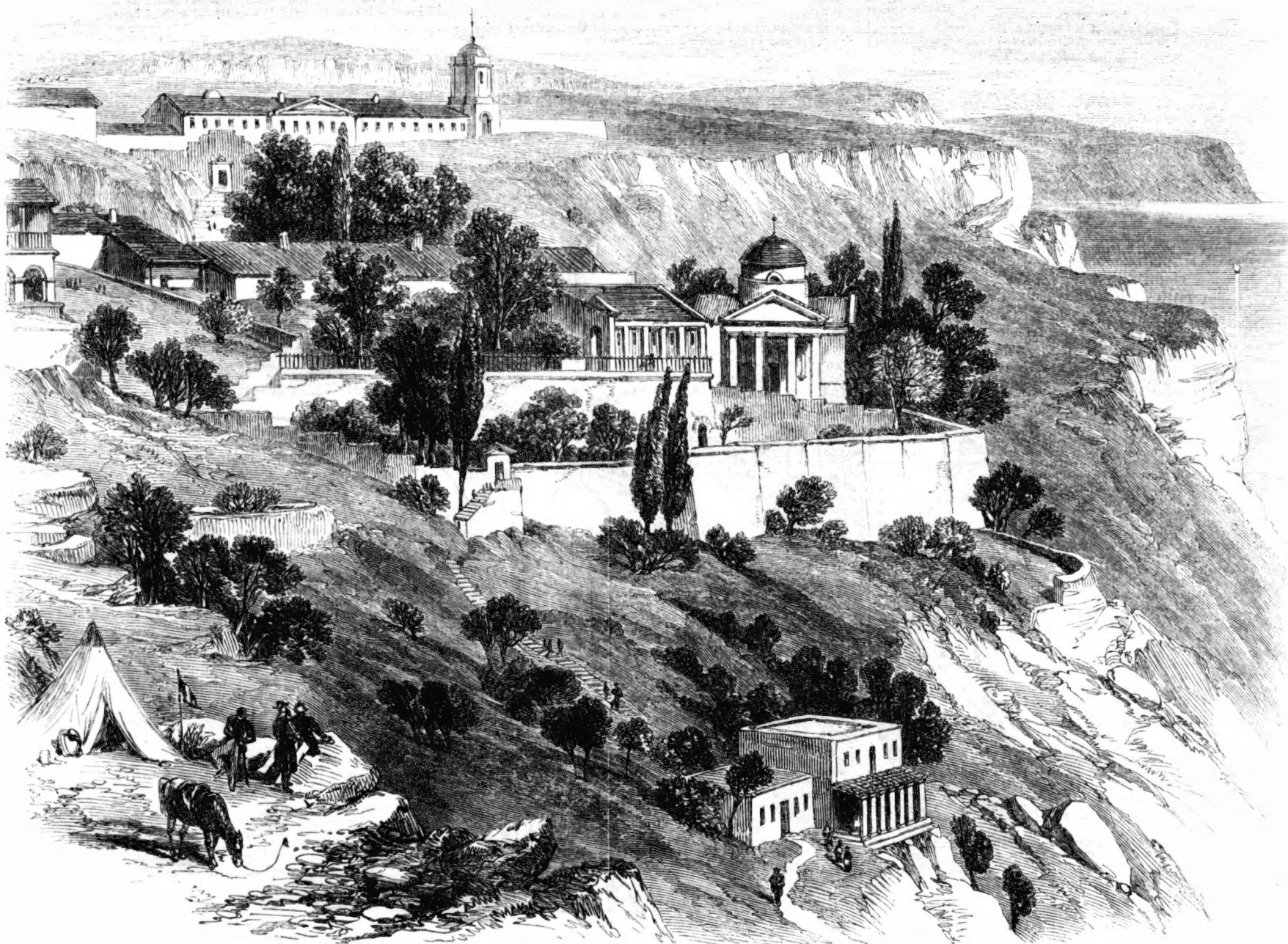
WE give this week an engraving of the Monastery of St. George and its vicinity, the scene of the military picnic which took place on the 14th ult. Notwithstanding the severity of the weather, the Third Division left its camp ground early on the morning of that day, and marched to the



INTERIOR OF OFFICER'S HUT, FORT PAUL PICKET, SEBASTOPOL.—(FROM A SKETCH BY LIEUT. HARVEY, 77th REGIMENT.)

high ground near the Monastery, where the six regiments and their artillery bivouacked for the day. The rations were carried by the commissariat wagons, and cooked on the spots taken up by the several regiments. The Division returned to camp the same afternoon, and arrived back before the severe cold change in the weather which occurred the same evening. On Sunday, the 16th, the First, Second, and Fourth Divisions, marched in the same direction. They left their respective camps in the morning about eight o'clock, and reached the ground fixed on for the review nearly at the same time. This was on the north side of the cross line of hill, along which the Ottoman troops used to be encamped, and where they held one or two redoubts, stretching from the Col di Balacava at one end, to the sea cliffs near the Monastery at the other. This hilly ridge falls abruptly on one side towards the valley of Karanyi, but has a gradual slope, broken into several shallow ravines toward the barren steppe which descends in a

northerly direction to the coast, between Cape Chersonese and the bay near Sebastopol. It was across this slope that three divisions were drawn up—the Guards on the right, in a direction towards the English headquarters, the Fourth Division on the left, towards the Monastery of St. George. Lieutenant-General Barnard, C.B., commanding the Second Division, being the senior of the three Division Generals, was in command of the *corps d'armée*. General Codrington inspected the troops on the ground, but, having decided that the weather was too severe for further operations, dismissed the divisions to their several camps, where they arrived about one p.m. They had marched prepared for remaining throughout the day. The situation where the inspection took place, as may be imagined from the accompanying illustration, is admirably adapted for such a purpose; indeed the whole British army might here be reviewed without inconvenience.



THE MONASTERY OF ST. GEORGE, SEBASTOPOL.—(FROM A SKETCH BY JULIAN PORTCH.)



HER MAJESTY INSPECTING THE DRAWINGS OF THE SCHOLARS OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, IN THE THRONE ROOM OF ST. JAMES'S PALACE



THE FIRST DRAWING-ROOM OF THE SEASON—A LADY ENTERING THE ROYAL PRESENCE.

THE BLUE-COAT BOYS AT HER MAJESTY'S DRAWING-ROOM.

On the occasion of the Queen holding her first Drawing-Room for the season, on Thursday, last week, in St. James's Palace, her Majesty received, according to annual custom, a deputation from Christ's Hospital in the Throne-Room. The deputation consisted of Mr. William Gilpin (treasurer), Captain Shea, Mr. John Clarmont Whiteman, and the tutors and masters, with forty boys. The Queen inspected the charts and drawings of the boys, and expressed her approbation of their performances.

By far the most interesting feature of this Drawing-Room, however, was the presence of the Princess Royal, who was naturally an object of curiosity and admiration on the part of the assembled company.

The engraving on the previous page will furnish our readers with some idea of one of the most interesting and important incidents of Drawing-Room ceremonial. The company, after passing through numerous elegant apartments, at length reach the ante-Drawing Room, which immediately adjoins Queen Anne's room. This apartment is most superbly fitted up, and the fire-place consists of beautiful Sienna marble. In it are portraits, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of his Majesty King George the Third, of the Prince of Wales (George the Fourth), and of the Duke of York, habited as Knight of the Garter. The portraits of Earl St. Vincent, and Lord Nelson, by Hopper, are also hung around. As soon as the door is opened for the reception of the general company, the ladies gradually approach the Throne-Room. The scene then becomes to all concerned intensely exciting and interesting. The anxious countenances seen by an onlooker, as the line slowly advances; the silence increasing as the moment of presentation approaches; the ladies prepare to drop their trains; the happy are arranged; the cards of announcement got ready; hearts beat high; the fair debutante, with graceful timidity, falters for a moment; the Rubicon is passed—she is in the presence of the Queen!

When the ladies have entered the magnificent Throne-Room, the cards of those presenting and to be presented are handed to the Lord-in-Waiting, who announces the lady's title or name to her Majesty, when a graceful courtesy is made to the Queen and also a similar respectful obeisance to each of the Royal Family who may be present—after which the ladies gradually retire, to give place for the numerous train of nobility to follow. It may be as well to state that when the Queen has entered the Throne-Room and the Royal Family and the Cabinet Ministers have taken their places, the presentation of the diplomatic circle first commences, followed by those noble personages who have the distinguished honour of the *entree*; and these, with some few exceptions, have the privilege of standing around the Sovereign, and witnessing the ceremonial of the drawing-room.

The Throne Room is a noble saloon, most gorgeously fitted up. In the centre is the Throne, with the Royal arms, and V. R. tastefully portrayed; the Royal chair and footstool are elegant specimens of workmanship, whilst the decorations and draperies are in keeping, having quarters of the Royal arms in appropriate niches. The well-known portrait of George the Fourth, by Sir Thomas Lawrence, is over the fireplace; and at either side are the noble historical representations of the victories of Vittoria and Waterloo.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Royal assent was given by commission to several public and private bills. The sitting was short, and the business disposed of does not call for particular notice.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ROCHESTER ELECTION COMMITTEE.

Mr. INGHAM brought up the report of this committee, which stated that Mr. W. W. Martin had been duly elected for the city of Rochester, and that the petition against his return was frivolous and vexatious.

ARMY CHAPLAINS.

Sir DE LACY EVANS called attention to the services of the chaplains of the army in the Russian war, and asked what recognition, if any, may be hoped for in respect of these services?

Lord PALMERSTON paid a high compliment to the devotion displayed by the chaplains of all denominations during the war, and mentioned that their services would not be overlooked as opportunity occurred.

EDUCATION—ADJOURNED DEBATE.

The debate on Lord JOHN RUSSELL's first resolution—"That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient to extend, revise, and consolidate the minutes of the Committee of Privy Council on Education;" and Mr. HENLEY's amendment, that "the chairman leave the chair"—was resumed in committee.

Lord J. RUSSELL expressed his surprise at the speech of Sir J. Graham on the previous evening, in which he came forward as the advocate of Voluntaryism. In no country in the world was education left to the voluntary principle. In England there is a church establishment, but no school establishment. In the United States there is no church establishment, but in many of the States there are school establishments. Lord John then proceeded to reply to the prominent objections urged against his scheme, remarking, in reference to the charity-fund proposal, that his intention was to apply such funds as were originally intended for educational objects, or benevolent purposes, which were now useless or injurious. It was a misrepresentation to say that his plan was entirely compulsory, and that it was to be carried out in a despotic manner. With regard to the assertion that a rate is sure to end in purely secular education, he had been told by schoolmasters that there need be no apprehension on that head. The statement made to him was, that where children are allowed to retire when religious teaching is to be entered upon, they very seldom retire, but remain. At all events, he would rather face the danger than allow large numbers of children to have no chance at all of learning the precepts of the Bible. With regard to the compulsion upon employers, he could see no oppression in that arrangement, inasmuch as the same compulsion already existed in the case of the millowners. As to the dread of Government corruption in the appointment of schoolmasters, it was altogether visionary. His proposal would add nothing to the patronage of Government. With regard to the children who are neither at school nor at work, he thought their condition could be greatly benefited by an extension of the grants; but care required to be taken that the domain of the Poor Law was not encroached upon. With the view of lessening opposition, he would not propose to go beyond the first five resolutions, which limited his plan to the extension of the present system, and the appointment of sub-inspectors, through whose instrumentality a thorough knowledge would be acquired of the state of education throughout the country.

Sir GEORGE GREY remarked that the statement of the Noble Lord as to the course he intended to take, had greatly narrowed the ground of difference. The Government could not vote for Mr. Henley's amendment, being prepared, on the contrary, to concur, to a certain extent, in the resolutions. Sir George also expressed his surprise at the speech of Sir James Graham, and was anxious to know if he went the full length of the voluntary principle, and would refuse any grant from the State in aid of private contributions. Adverting to the resolutions, Sir George Grey remarked that the Government would support the first resolution, but, as regards the others, he must move the previous question.

Mr. EDWARD BELL opposed the scheme of the Noble Lord as destructive of the voluntary effort.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE spoke of the entire scheme as inadequate to the wants of the country.

Mr. DRUMMOND spoke of the difference between education and instruction, and complained that in the resolutions the terms were confounded, as well as in all the speeches which had been delivered. Instruction was given at school, but education was given by the moral atmosphere which the child breathed at home. It was in vain for the State to attempt to educate the people. It had a right to deal with those who broke the laws from the want of education; and the best way of proceeding would be to send those who had offended the least out of the country, and those who had offended the most out of the world.

Mr. GLADSTONE said there were more serious objections to the resolutions than formal ones, and he ironically complimented Lord J. Russell upon the strategic skill by which, like a good general, he had extricated the remnant of his army from a desperate position, by withdrawing those resolutions the objections to which were entertained as deep convictions by the country. After a few remarks upon the general character of the scheme of education proposed in the resolutions, he adverted to the proposal to divide the country into districts, declaring that he looked with suspicion upon a machinery which included an overruling organ which must lead to a centralising system of education. With regard to a compulsory rate, he warned the House of the risk it involved; from the day Parliament sanctioned compulsory rating for education, it signed, in his opinion, the death warrant of voluntary schools. As to the question of religious teaching, it was not intended that could give a religious character to education, and he was afraid that by adopting the tenth resolution the Holy Scriptures would be exposed to irreverence. He recorded his adherence to the doctrine upon this point of Sir J. Graham and Mr. M. Gibson, as the only practicable mode of putting an end to heartburnings and discord. The compelling employers of children to pay for their instruction would impose, he said, a direct tax on labour, and he

contended that the Legislature had no right to interfere between the parent and the child in the matter of education, at least until it had exhausted every means of raising the power of attraction to the schools. The resolutions he considered to be full of tendencies to encourage a spirit of dependence foreign to the minds of Englishmen.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL declined to take the advice so tendered, and would do what he considered to be best for the cause of national education. He deemed it better for that cause to withdraw a part of the scheme, rather than expose it to the risk of a defeat. He was disappointed that his scheme, as a whole, had not met with more favour; but looking at the history of past reforms, he had no cause to feel discouraged.

At twenty minutes after twelve o'clock the committee divided—For the chairman leaving the chair, 260; against it, 138; majority, 102. The matter thus dropped, and the measure is consequently thrown out. The remaining business was disposed of, and, at twenty-five minutes past one, the House adjourned till Monday.

MONDAY, APRIL 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

TORTURE IN MADRAS.

The Earl of ALBEMARLE adverted once more to the practice of torture in India, and moved resolutions denouncing the practices employed for the collection of the revenue. The resolutions were supported by extracts from the report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject.

The Duke of ARGYLL concurred in expressing his abhorrence and condemnation of the practices alluded to, but, while confessing their existence, contended that the atrocious system had been inherited by the East India Company from the former rulers of that country, had always been declared illegal since the establishment of the British rule, was now pursued in a very mitigated form, and had never been sanctioned by the European servants of the Company. Measures were also, he declared, in course of adoption for the final prohibition of torture in any shape or for any purpose. Suggesting some amendments incorporating these statements in the resolutions before the House, the Duke of Argyll consented to adopt them with these modifications.

After some discussion, in the course of which various remarks upon the general question of Indian government and finance were offered by the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Earl of Ellenborough, Lord Montagu, Lord Stanley of Alderley, and Lord Conington, the resolutions, as amended, were agreed to. Their Lordships adjourned at twenty minutes to nine o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. TOTTENHAM took the oath and his seat for New Ross.

THE SIEGE OF KARA.

Mr. WHITESIDE mentioned the terms of his motion for the 24th inst., on the subject of Kara. The substance was that he will attribute the capitalization of that town to the want of foresight and energy on the part of her Majesty's Government.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

Lord PALMERSTON having stated that the official correspondence with the Government of the United States respecting the emigrant question would probably be ready early next week.

Mr. H. BAILEY consented to waive the amendment of which he had given notice, to the motion for going into committee of supply.

ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAYS.

Mr. LOWE, in answer to Mr. Humphrey Brown, stated that the Government did not intend to bring in any bill for the better regulation of railway and canal traffic, or for the better prevention of accidents on railways.

SUPPLY.

The House went into committee of supply on the Civil Service Estimates. On the votes for the colonial establishments being proposed, Mr. WILLIAMS insisted upon the justice of making certain colonies defray the salaries of their governors. He moved that the amount of the vote should be reduced by the amount of the incomes designed for the governors of West Australia and Jamaica.

After discussion, the committee divided, when the amendment was negatived by a majority of 269 to 3.

CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS.

The vote for the consular service also excited some debate, Mr. WISE maintaining the necessity of reforming that branch of the public service, which, as at present organised, was obnoxious to heavy charges on account of its inefficiency and extravagance.

Lord PALMERSTON, in the course of some explanations, stated that the Foreign Secretary proposed, in the course of next session, to move for the appointment of a select committee to investigate the whole subject of the consular service. A number of subsequent votes were afterwards passed, when the House resumed, and, after the transaction of some further business, adjourned at five minutes past one.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships held a short sitting, but nothing was transacted calling for special notice.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FOREIGN LEGION.

Mr. PEEL, in answer to questions, stated that the Foreign Legion would be disbanded as soon as circumstances admitted, and that they would receive all that was promised, but that did not include pensions. The medals granted by the French Government would only be conferred upon a select number.

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE.

Mr. SPOONER moved, "That the House resolve itself into a committee for the purpose of considering the acts for the endowment of the College of Maynooth, with a view to the withdrawal of any endowment out of the Consolidated Fund, due regard being had to vested rights or interests." He recapitulated the arguments he has so often used on this question, and concluded his speech by tendering advice to Members to act in accordance with their oath, and thus support our Protestant throne, Protestant Church, and Protestant institutions.

Mr. BLACK moved, as an amendment, the addition of the following words:—"And, at the same time, to take into consideration the other Parliamentary grants to religious denominations in Ireland." Mr. Black would not go into the theological argument, but would take his ground on the principle of strict justice. The Roman Catholics were not the only recipients of public money, and if the grant to one sect is to be withdrawn, so must the grants to the others, if the law of fair play is to prevail. According to the latest statistics, the population of Ireland consists of—members of the Established Church, 13 per cent.; Roman Catholics, 77 per cent.; other sects, 10 per cent. The minority, represented by the Established Church, enjoyed £700,000 of annual revenue; the Roman Catholics had the Maynooth grant, and the other sects had £38,000. Mr. Black denied that the course recommended by Mr. Spooner was either just or calculated to maintain the Protestant faith, or to discourage the Roman Catholic religion. It was a species of persecution, and he never would be a party to persecute any sect for its opinions. It was said that the faith of the Roman Catholic was heretical, but the Roman Catholic made the same charge as regarded the Protestant, and the high Episcopal said the same thing of the Presbyterians. The war of sects afforded no stable foundation for the action of statesmen. Broader, and firmer, and larger grounds must be taken, and the amendment he had moved pointed in that direction.

A somewhat animated debate then took place, in which Lord Castlereagh, Lord Bernard, Mr. Fagon, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Roebuck, and others took part.

Lord PALMERSTON expressed his regret that the question should again have been brought forward. No good whatever could arise from discussing polemical questions in the spirit displayed by the mover of the motion. Viewing the question in its political aspect, Lord Palmerston maintained that a question of good faith was mixed up with the continuance of the endowment; and looking at results, he would ask if Ireland was ever more loyal, prosperous, and contented than she was now? The doctrines taught at Maynooth had been challenged; but, judging from results, there was no reason to believe that the teaching was defective as regarded the discharge of political and social duties. Lord Palmerston expressed a hope that the House would agree with him in thinking that it was high time to put an end to irritating polemical discussions.

Mr. SPOONER having replied,

The House divided—For Mr. Black's amendment, 21; against it, 253—Majority against, 232. For Mr. Spooner's motion, 159; against it, 135—Majority in favour, 26.

This result was hailed with loud cheers.

The Speaker then left the chair, and Mr. Newdegate acted as chairman of the committee, in the absence of Mr. Fitzroy.

The question being put, that the Chairman be requested to ask leave to bring in a bill to carry out the motion,

Mr. HUTCHINS moved as an amendment, that the Chairman report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Lord PALMERSTON advised Mr. Spooner to accept the amendment, for it was the only progress he was likely to make.

Mr. SPOONER declined; and on a division the amendment was lost by 154 to 132.

Another amendment was moved, but at the suggestion of Lord Palmerston it was withdrawn, in order that a division might be taken on the main question. The main question was carried by 159 to 143.

The House then resumed, and leave was given to bring in the bill. On the motion of Mr. STAFFORD, a select committee was appointed on the medical department of the army.

The other business was disposed of, and at a quarter past twelve o'clock the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE QUALIFICATION BILL.

Considerable progress was made with the discussion of Mr. Colville's Justice of the Peace Qualification Bill in committee; but a doubt having arisen as to whether the words of a clause did not imply that the bill had a retrospective effect, it was agreed by a majority (aves, 115; noes, 74—41) that the discussion should be adjourned, so as to allow time for the consideration of the point.

MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND) BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of the bill, Mr. HAMILTON moved an amendment, that the bill should be read a second time that day six months.

After a discussion, in which Mr. Mengler, Mr. A. Black, Mr. Miall, and Lord Bernard, took part.

The SECRETARY for IRELAND explained the position in which the question now stood. A measure on the subject had been passed two years since, for which he invited a fair and deliberate trial. Should that act prove inexpedient or inoperative, the Government, he declared, would undertake to introduce some comprehensive bill of reform in a future session.

Mr. NAPIER opposed the bill; while Mr. FITZGERALD vindicated the Government with respect to the measure.

Mr. MAGUIRE contended that the tax was one upon the person, and that it was paid, not by the landlord, but by the occupier.

Mr. SERJEANT O'BRIEN insisted that the tax was upon the person in respect to property, and that, upon the same principle which justified the Government in 1854 in dealing with this tax at all, they were at liberty further to deal with it.

Lord J. RUSSELL condemned the indecisive policy of the cabinet. For the present, however, he consented to vote against the measure, trusting before long to find some bill introduced for the total abnegation of what he considered an unjust and vexatious impost.

On a division, there appeared, for the second reading, 121; for the amendment, 201—80. The bill was consequently lost.

The Reformatory Schools (Ireland) Bill was read a second time. The Eyecqueur Bills (£21,182,700) Bill was read a third time, and passed.

The House rose a few minutes before six.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

FIRE BRIGADE OF THE HOUSE.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY said it was proposed to dispense with the fire brigade of the House, and to transfer its duties to a staff of police, consisting of one superintendent, two sergeants, and eighteen men, who would have the entire guardianship of the building, and be instructed in the duties of firemen.

OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Lord PANMURE, in reply to the Earl of Elgin, stated, that an impression which had gone abroad, that a large military force was about to be embarked for the British possessions in North America, was without foundation. It was intended to send there a certain number of regiments returning from the Crimea to replace those which had been withdrawn; but that a very large force was to be despatched to our North American colonies was an unfounded rumour. It had been also stated that great quantities of munitions of war were also on the point of being sent to those colonies. The fact was, that, during the recent war, the colonial depôts had been drawn upon largely for this description of stores, and all that was about to be done was to replace the quantity that had been so removed.

EDUCATION BILL.

Earl GRANVILLE, in answer to the Bishop of Oxford, said he did not intend to proceed with the Education Bill which he had introduced.—Their Lordships adjourned at 20 minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The SPEAKER took the chair at four o'clock; but, there only being thirty-eight members present, no House was made.

HORRIBLE OCCURRENCE IN RUPERT STREET.

On Thursday night, shortly after eight o'clock, considerable alarm prevailed in the neighbourhood of the Haymarket, in consequence of an awful conflict between four men, at the Italian and French restaurant, No. 45, Rupert Street, Haymarket. It appeared that a man, named Foschini, employed at an establishment near Waterloo Bridge, was at the house above named, when a serious quarrel ensued between Foschini and three other Italians, when the former used a knife, and so severely wounded the others, that it was found necessary to convey them to Charing Cross Hospital in a very dangerous state. During the confusion that prevailed, Foschini managed to escape, leaving his hat behind him, and, on the arrival of the police, Inspector Parkes, of the C Division, went in pursuit of him about Leather Lane, Holborn. He is about 23 years old, fair complexion, with youthful beard and moustache. The cause of the quarrel was not ascertained. One of the sufferers was not expected to survive through the night.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSION AT CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

THE Board has continued its sittings daily, with a single exception, from the point at which our former report terminated. Since then, the following evidence has been taken:—

Colonel Douglas, of the 11th Hussars, was examined by Colonel Tulloch. His evidence corroborated the view given in the report of Tulloch and M'Neill respecting the deplorable condition of the horses. They had no shelter, and it could have been provided for them in a short time. In this view Colonel Doherty in the main concurred.

Colonel Lowe was then examined by Colonel Tulloch. The latter stated that in Colonel Lowe's regiment, in November, 143 horses were living, and 18 dead; in December, 125 were living, and 38 dead; and in January, 87 horses were living, and 40 were dead.

Whereupon Lord Lucan objected to this irregular mode of proceeding. He complained that the Gallant Officer had ransacked the War Office to manufacture returns, which he brought forward in evidence.

An animated discussion ensued, in which Colonel Tulloch said that he had received authority from the War Office to search for returns. He did not want the Board to place absolute faith in his returns; they might obtain them for themselves; but he required to refer to them for his own information, or he could not go on with the case.

Lord Lucan persisted in his objections, urging that, as Colonel Tulloch had in his opinion committed so many errors in his report, the returns he now produced might also be at fault.

The Court decided that Colonel Tulloch must obtain a certificate at the War Office, attesting the returns from which he wished to quote.

At one of the sittings, Mr. Bracebridge gave evidence that, at the time the horses were in want of shelter, the quantity of sail cloth required for the purpose could easily have been procured from Constantinople in about ninety hours, or could have been afforded by the transports and vessels at Balaklava. He believed, too, that carpenters, nails, and tools could have been obtained with equal facility from Constantinople. His attention had been called to the subject of the food for horses at Scutari, and he found that supplies of linseed might be obtained to almost any extent at Constantinople.

Sir R. Airey stated, that, on the 8th and 12th of November, he issued orders to Lord Lucan to provide shelter for his horses, but it was not till three months after the order was issued that the horses were put under shelter. Colonel Tulloch, at this point of the evidence, asked the witness if he (Col. T.) and Sir J. M'Neill had not good reason for supposing, in their report, that there was a want of promptitude on the part of Lord Lucan in obeying that order. Whereupon

Lord Lucan objected to the question, stating that it remained with the Board to answer it. At a subsequent meeting of the Board, the very same objection was made by Lord Lucan to a similar question put to another witness, Colonel Lowe. After some discussion, the Board interfered and decided that the question might be put. The question was put, but an evasive answer was given to it.

General Beaton, of the Bash-Bazouks, was then called and examined by Colonel Tulloch. As he walked up the room, his martial bearing and magnificent uniform attracted very considerable attention. He stated that in some cases the horses connected with the Bash-Bazouks were covered by means of a shelter constructed of branches of trees; and where these could not be procured, they remained without shelter. The uncertainty which existed as to the resting-place of the horses under Lord Lucan's care, was a great barrier to their being provided with protection from the weather.

REPORTED CHANGES IN THE CABINET.—"There is a very strong rumour, which we believe to be perfectly correct, that Sir J. Graham and Mr. Sidney Herbert will, in a day or so, again join the Palmerston administration. Frequent interviews, it is understood, took place yesterday between Mr. Herbert and the members of the Cabinet. This intrigue, having elapsed immediately after Lord John Russell's annihilation, shows that Lord Palmerston is quite aware of the hopeless and irremediable weakness of his ministry, and is equally indifferent as to the character or antecedents of the men, provided he can manage to patch up his Government again for a short time more. Mr. Gladstone's accession is more than doubtful, we believe. The report is, that Lord Palmerston will resign on the ground of ill-health. We may also say that Sir J. Graham, it is rumoured, has exacted a promise from Lord Palmerston of every amende and concession on the American question."—STANDARD.

MUSIC OF THE WEEK.

The Lyceum has been made the prettiest theatre in Europe, which will scarcely, however, compensate for its being the worst in the world as regards sound. It was evidently built on the same acoustic principles as the House of Lords; but, while the fact of a peer being "inaudible in the gallery" annoys no one but the Parliamentary reporter who is expected to take down what he says, there are to be voices to be heard at the Lyceum, of which we cannot afford to lose a single tone. On the opening night the singers appeared astonished at the want of effect produced by their voices, and Madame Ney, in particular, had to exert herself as much as if she had been at a theatre as large as Covent Garden. Tamberlik, too, singing, at an early period of the evening, that it would be difficult to make himself heard without shouting, seemed for some time disposed to abandon the notion altogether. This, however, did not prevent him from singing the *andante* of his air in the third act in a most exquisite manner; and if the second movement failed to have the effect which so much noise usually produces, it is true that the less heard of so commonplace a melody the better. Tamberlik sang the air of the *Misère* scene with his accustomed facility; but here a contrary result to what might have been expected took place. Owing to some mysterious law of acoustics, a vocalist singing from the front of the Lyceum stage, close to the foot-lights, is scarcely so well heard as when singing from the back. Madame Ney, in her first scene, had been striving in vain, from the very verge of the orchestra, to fill the theatre with her beautiful voice; while in the last act, Tamberlik's air from behind the scenes, given without any apparent effort, was nevertheless too loud for the general effect of the scene. The chorus, again, both in the admirable choros in the second act, and in the series of shouts which form the opening of the third, was comparatively ineffective; whereas in the *Misère* scene it was heard far too much; the background of the musical picture thus acquiring an undue prominence, to the slight discomfiture of the *opéra*, who forms the principal figure.

We have now performed the whole of the disagreeable part of our duty, that is to say, we have pointed out a defect in the building which does not admit of remedy; we have now simply to mention, that all Mr. Gye or any other manager could do, in the way of rendering the theatre elegant and commodious, has been done; while the new dresses and properties testifying to the liberality with which everything on the stage is conducted. The prevailing colours in the decorations are red, white, and blue. The voluptuous red (inclining to crimson) of the curtains, does not harmonize particularly well with the pale, sentimental blue of the boxes themselves. This blue stands out from a ground of biscuity white, and the decoration is completed by the addition of some simple ornaments. By a most happy idea, the chairs in the "stalls" are also white, so that the black mass presented by every body of modern gentlemen in evening costume is thus pleasantly relieved. Altogether, the effect of the decorations may be correctly imagined by thinking of a young lady with blue eyes, in a white dress, with a simple gold brooch and a crimson shawl over her shoulders—a simple but brilliant *toilette*.

There is scarcely any pit in this new opera. Some persons complain of this; but we really see no reason why there should be any pit at all, if it suit Mr. Gye's purpose to turn all the ground-floor of this theatre into stalls. We think, however, it would have been advisable to make a passage from the pit into the boxes; at present you may have a dozen friends in a dozen boxes, with two dozen seats unoccupied, but if you are unfortunate enough to be in the pit, you will not be able to take advantage of their being vacant. The few seats at the back of the stalls, constituting the pit, have at present no communication with any other part of the theatre.

We have nothing to say about the execution of the "Trovatore." Didie's rephred Viardot creditably if not satisfactorily, and to replace Viardot satisfactorily would be to equal her. Graziani continues to have the finest baritone voice in the world, and to sing with that simplicity and taste which have always characterized his style. After two or three performances the singers will be more at home, and will be better able to calculate their effects than they can possibly do now. On Tuesday they were all trying the range of their voices, as artillerymen, before commencing in earnest, have to try the range of their runs.

The concert at the Crystal Palace, last Saturday, attracted a multitude of visitors. The lady flute-player achieved a triumphant success, and was listened to by the birds in the garden with ill-disguised envy. We should advise the conductors to eschew symphonies until they have a better band.

The greatest musical event of the week, after the opening of the Opera, has been the appearance of Madame Schumann (formerly Clara Wieck) at the Philharmonic and other concerts.

SHORT NOTES ON A FEW PERIODICALS.

The NATIONAL REVIEW this quarter is popular in its choice of subjects, and most of the articles are treated in a very readable style. No one will dispute the talent displayed in the analytical disquisition on the man Goethe, which opens the number, though every one will feel the absence of anything like brilliancy of touch which would have given vividness to the sketch. The writer of the essay on "Macaulay" puts forth perhaps a clearer and fairer estimate of Macaulay's capabilities as an historian than any one out of the hundred and odd critics who have had their little say respecting the great man's shortcomings. How true is the following!

"Considering the enormous advantages which a picturesque style gives to ill-disposed critics; the number of points of investigation which it suggests; the number of assertions it makes, sentence by sentence; the number of ill-disposed critics that there are in the world; considering Mr. Macaulay's position—set on a hill to be spied at by them—he can scarcely be thought an inaccurate historian. Considering all things, they have found few certain blunders, hardly an direct mistake. Every sentence of his style requires minute knowledge; the vivid picture has a hundred details; each of those details must have an evidence, an authority, a proof. A historian like Hume passes easily over a period; his chart is large; if he gets the conspicuous headlines, the large harbours, vividly marked, he does not care. Macaulay puts in the depth of each wave, every remarkable rock, every tree on the shore. Nothing gives a critic so great an advantage. It is difficult to do this for a volume; simple for a page. It is easy to select a particular event, and learn all which any one can know about it; examine Macaulay's descriptions, say he is wrong, that X is not buried where he asserts, that a little boy was one year older than he states. But how would the critic manage, if he had to work out all this for a million facts, for a whole period?"

There is a fair amount of smartness and sound sense in the article on "Rogers's Table-Talk," or rather, his Table Silence, as the reviewer suggests it might have been more aptly styled, "for in it is recorded not what Samuel Rogers thought and said, but what Samuel Rogers had heard other people say." This is true enough. The original observations attributed to Rogers are by no means brilliant, but, fortunately, they are very few.

The following is a fair hit at a very stupid kind of story, which old men are remarkably fond of telling:—

"We have never been able," observes the reviewer, "to find much satisfaction in seeing a person who has simply seen another. That degree of approximation to the king which consists in your brother having seen the Duke of York, is generally deemed unsatisfactory, and only becoming in an Irishman to boast of." From Mr. Rogers we learn that—

"Sir George Beaumont, when a young man, was introduced at Rome to an old painter, who in his youth had known an old painter, who had seen Claude and Gaspar Poussin riding out, in a morning, on mules, and furnished with palettes, &c., to make sketches in the Campagna."

"Throw in another handful or two of old painters, you might see Zeuxis; exchange them for gardeners, and you may get a vicarious view of Adam himself. This process is like constructing an opaque telescope to see an invisible object, or like travelling to York by conversation with the coachman who drives the first stage out of London."

A protest is very justly entered by the reviewer against the venerable jokes, the faded epigrams, and defunct repartees, with which Mr. Dyer's volume abounds. This was the inevitable result of the editor's well-known antiquarian taste. The more ancient the joke, the more certain was it to find favour in his eyes.

"Early English Explorers" is a learned and laborious article. "The English Stage" is a capital paper, which discusses the decline of the drama, and points out the more prominent causes of it. The writer's views are alike novel and sound, and he enforces them in trenchant language.

Dr. Forbes Winslow's JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE is, despite its title, entertaining reading for those who take no particular interest in the subject. The Editor's résumé of the psychological data of the preceding quarter abounds with anecdote and curt philosophic observation, and commands the attention of the reader from its opening sentence to its concluding page. The article on "Moral and Criminal Epidemics" is of striking interest, and will be read with avidity for the singular facts it marshals forward, even supposing that the reader altogether discards the philosophic undercurrent that pervades it throughout. The "Autobiography of the Insane" is a remarkable paper, with this disadvantage about it, however, that one rises from its perusal with certain uncomfortable feelings; and we can imagine that persons of weak nerves would almost feel doubts respecting their own sanity, after being absorbed by these singular revelations; at any rate, they would be glad of some more healthy literary excitement to dispel the impression left on their minds. The paper upon "Suicide amongst Children," furnishes many curious facts; and several of the other articles, though to some extent upon purely technical subjects, are yet treated in so comprehensive a style that the general reader cannot fail to take an interest in them, and derive some profit from their perusal.

The IDLER, which reached us too late for notice with the other Magazines, shows, in its last number, a marked improvement in tone, with no abatement whatever of that excess of vigour which has characterized this periodical from the outset. "Bloodhounds of the Empire," if not very true, is, at any rate, highly seasoned reading. Disraeli's biography is delicately flayed. "Ruskin's Third Volume" is a clever piece of criticism; and the paper "On Books" is very good. "Manchester" is dull as the city itself. It was our fortune once to undergo a fortnight's penal servitude in the capital of the manufacturing districts, and we can speak with some authority on this point. Mr. Willerforce's "Boat Cruise" is a good magazine article, smartly written, with sufficient interest to keep the attention alive when it flags at some of his overstrained efforts to be funny. To talk of Uncle Tom's Cabin and Uncle Thompson's Cabin, in one breath, is not wit on dry land, whatever it may be on salt water. "Bagot's Youth," though without the shadow of a story in it, is better this month than ever. Who cares, though, an atom about the plot when Mr. Hannay flings his vigorous wit broadcast over every line in the page? Better writing—of its particular class, be it under-tooled—was never to be found in "Blackwood" or "Fraser" in their palmy days, and no periodical of the present time can pretend to match it.

TAIT, which was also delivered late this month, is by no means a pattern number of a magazine. Three or four of its papers read like doll leading articles, with this very objectionable difference, that they are quadruple the ordinary leading article length. "Tangled Talk," though readable enough, is yet very deficient in that average amount of smartness which one looks for in a writer who takes upon himself to scatter praise and condemnation right and left in due oracular fashion. The poems after Goethe are positively contemptible. The other papers are on such lively and particularly novel subjects as "Scotch Fisheries," "Tenure of Land in Ireland," the "Crimean Report," and "Imprisonment for Debt." In the Literary Register, we find nearly three pages of heavy review of Professor Wilson's "Noctes Ambrosianae," of which four columns are extracts from this dreary book, with a few good things scattered through it. When will Scotchmen understand that, although they may relish local wit the same as they do their oysters, people who see the sun even as seldom as Londoners do, have no corresponding appreciation of either the one or the other.

OBITUARY.

BARNETT, M., Esq.—On the 18th ult., at Montreal, after a lingering illness of many months' duration, died Mr. Morris Barnett, the well-known actor. He was almost without a rival in his delineation of the French character; and it is not too much to say that he was nearly the only English actor who achieved a real and lasting success at the St. James's Theatre. He achieved his great celebrity by one part which he played to perfection—we mean that of Monsieur Jacques, the poor Frenchman in London. He was for some years the theatrical critic of the "Morning Post," and was the author or adapter of several pieces to the London stage. He was a leading actor at other theatres besides the St. James's; and at one time was a member of Macready's company at Drury Lane. In 1854, he went to America, and from thence to Canada, on a professional tour, in the hope of realising a competence, on which to retire from active life. The "Serious Family," which he wrote on the model of "Le Mari à la Campagne," was perhaps the most successful of his adaptations.

FARQUHARSON, COL.—On the 8th inst., at Southampton, aged 59, died Colonel Farquharson, late of the 7th Fusiliers. He belonged to a branch of the family which settled some time since in Dorsetshire, and is said to have left ten surviving brothers. When the 7th Fusiliers embarked for the East, at Southampton, in 1854, the soldiers recognised, and clamoured round their "dear old Colonel," vowing that they would never leave him. But he did not feel himself strong enough for active service, and so gave place to younger men. The late Colonel Yea, killed before the Redan in June last, and Sir Thomas Troubridge, who lost his legs at Inkermann, dined with the gallant Colonel before setting out for the Crimea, and the latter gave to Sir Thomas his sword and ash, with an assurance of his conviction that he would never disgrace them.

EVANS, W., Esq.—On the 8th inst., at Allestree Hall, Derbyshire, aged 68, died William Evans, Esq., a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for that county, and formerly M.P. for the Northern Division. He was also high sheriff of Derbyshire in 1829. He was born in 1788, and married in 1820 Mary, daughter of the Rev. T. Gisborne, prebendary of Durham, by whom he has left an only son, Thomas William, born in 1821, who has inherited the Allestree estates. He was an honest and independent Liberal, and his loss is deeply felt throughout the county. He had for some time been subject to fainting fits, and was attacked with one day before his decease, and rallied slightly, but it returned the following day, and before medical aid could be called in, life was extinct. He sat for East Bedford from 1818 to 1826, for Leicester from 1830 to 1832; and for North Derbyshire which he unsuccessfully contested in 1835 from 1837 to 1855, when he retired from parliamentary life.

HOWARD, LIEUT. R. B.—On the 1st, at the Barracks, Belfast, died Robert Boleyn Howard, Esq., lieutenant in the 2nd Royal Cheshire Militia. He was the second son of the Hon. and Rev. Francis Howard, of Swords, County of Dublin. By his first wife, Frances, daughter of the late Right Rev. Dr. George Beresford, Lord Bishop of Kilmore. He was consequently nephew to the third and present Earl of Wicklow.

COBLEN, R.—On the 7th inst., at Weinheim, near Baden, Germany, died Richard, only son of Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P. for the West Riding of Yorkshire, by his wife Kate, daughter of Hugh Williams, Esq., to whom he was married in 1840. The melancholy event was alluded to by Lord John Russell in the course of the debate in the House on the Thursday following.

HUSKISSON, MRS.—On the 7th inst., at Eastham, near Chichester, died, aged 78, Mrs. Elizabeth Emily Huskisson, wife of the late Right Hon. William Huskisson, the friend of Canning and Perceval, and many years M.P. for Harwich, Chichester, and Liverpool, and Secretary for the Colonies under Lord Goderich. The deceased lady was a daughter of the late Admiral Mark Milbanke; third son of Sir Ralph Milbanke, fourth Baronet of Halmby, Yorkshire. Mrs. Huskisson was with her lamented husband when he met with his fatal accident in September, 1830, at the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. After his death she lived in retirement at his villa of Eastham, about five miles from Chichester, a classic spot, which he purchased in 1800 from Hayley, the poet and biographer of Cowper. "This originally extensive domain," says Dallaway, in his "History of the Rape of Chichester," "was embellished by its late owner in the simple and genuine taste of the cottage ornée, as first introduced into this country by Shenstone at the Leasowes. Mr. Huskisson," he adds, "has greatly enlarged the mansion in a style of elegance and accommodation, and has likewise extended and made alterations in the immediate environs. The present estate includes about 300 acres." Mrs. Huskisson leaves no issue.

MELVILLE, HON. W. H. L.—On the 9th inst., in Manchester Square, died, aged 67, the Hon. William Henry Leslie Melville, third son of the late Earl of Leven and Melville, and brother of the present peer. He had been for many years in the Hon. East India Company's Service, but had retired; and held for a considerable time a seat on the Board of East India Directors, of which he was a very active member, and at one time, we believe, was Deputy Chairman. His death was occasioned by a rather sudden paralytic seizure; he died unmarried.

BOROUGH, W.—On the 5th inst., drowned in the Thames, near Reading, by the upsetting of a pleasure boat, in his 15th year, William, the only surviving son of Sir Edward Borough, Bart., the celebrated Army Agent in Dublin, by his wife, the Lady Elizabeth St. Lawrence, youngest daughter of William, second Earl of Howth. The elder brother of the deceased, a Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade, died in November last, before Sebastopol, from the effects of fever following on a severe wound which he received in the final assault on the Redan on Sept. 8th previous.

MOFFITT, DR.—On the 6th inst., at Devonport, died James Moffitt, Esq., First Class Army Surgeon. He saw a considerable number of active service under the late Duke of Wellington in his Peninsular and Waterloo campaigns; and is said to have had the honour of pressing the only wound which his Grace ever received through his long and charmed military life.

JOTTINGS FROM MY JOURNAL.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9.

On Wednesday the House of Commons holds a day sitting, and whether the business be finished or not, adjourns at six—an arrangement which Maria devoutly wishes that honourable gentlemen would follow every day, and not keep husbands away from their wives till one or two in the morning! To the House, accordingly, in the forenoon, for Wednesday is generally abandoned to the parliamentary lore and their impracticable measures. "What's in the wind to-day, Mr. Doorkeeper?" "Milner Gibson's Oath of Abjuration Bill, sir?" And, sure enough, the lobby was full of the children of Israel, who hope for admission into the House by the abolition of an oath directed against the Stuarts! Under the gallery, I found myself seated next the chiefs of the Hebrew fraternity, Sir Lionel Goldsmid and Lord Mayor Salomons, listening intently to Milner Gibson's long-winded harangue. Why does not Sir Gibson take a lesson from his friends Cobden and Bright, and try to be short and sharp? Presently Sir Moses Montefiore joined us, but, strange to say, I felt no thrill of delight at my contiguity to these Caucasian notabilities. Sir Lionel is little and shabby-looking; Sir Moses is portly and irregular in his aspect; but the Lord Mayor, in his clerical costume of black, with a neat white neckcloth, prim, intellectual, and ruddy, might pass for a dignitary of the Church. The debate long and dull, for who, on one side or the other, can add anything to the old arguments? and while Sir Frederick Thesiger replied to Gibson, the Ministerial bench was deserted. Lord Stanley and Disraeli voted with the Liberals, and it was amusing to see the Opposition leader cheered by the Liberals, amid the blank and mournful silence of his own party, while he recapitulated his celebrated argument, first broached in the life of Lord George Bentinck, that the Jews should be admitted to Parliament, not on the ground of "religious liberty," but because the Founder of our religion was a Jew. Methought the Right Hon. Gentleman should have remembered who were the people that cried, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Both sides pleased with the result of the division; the Liberals in good spirits with the victory, and the Opposition looking on the majority as a virtual triumph. *Memo.*—The general opinion is that the Lords will throw out the bill, in fear lest they should soon have Baron Rothschild among them as Lord Piccadilly.

A quiet evening at home, Maria and the children having gone to tea at Mrs. A.'s, who wants Maria to sign the petition about woman's rights, of which Sir Erskine Perry is to support the prayer in the House of Commons on Thursday week. Dipped into Guizot's "History of Richard Cromwell and the Restoration," which has just been published in an English translation, and seems to have dropped still-born from the press. The publication of Guizot's book falls in curiously with the rejoicings on the birth of the Imperial prince. The French Emperor may learn from it that a dynasty is not an easy matter to found. As in the case of Guizot's former book about Oliver Cromwell, so in this about Richard, the most interesting part of it consists of the correspondence, now printed for the first time, between the French Ambassador at London and Cardinal Mazarin, full of curious glimpses into the secret history of the period.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10.

To the club in the afternoon, —came in from the Drawing Room (the first that the Queen has held this season), full of praises of the two *debutantes*—the Princess Royal and the Honourable Miss Jones Loyd, Lord Overstone's lovely and to-be wealthy daughter. Heard that there is no truth in the report set a-going by Mr. Grant, of the "Morning Advertiser," that the Government is to ask Parliament to settle £70,000 a year upon the future Queen of Prussia—our Princess Royal. Also, that Lord Clarendon has declined to accept the offer of elevation to the rank of Marquis, made in connection with his success at the Paris Congress. They say, the peace made is a splendid one for England, despite the croaking of the "Times;" and that Lord Palmerston can safely go to the country on it.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11.

To the club in the afternoon. Everybody talking of the education debate, yesterday evening, in the House; and Sir James Graham's sudden conversion to Bainesism, out of pique, it is said, at Lord John Russell. Sam. Warren's speech, last night, was much applauded, and the little man will be vainer than ever. What a strange disruption of parties this Education Question causes?—Warren and Sir John Pakington supporting Lord John Russell against Henley and that young hope of the Tories, Lord Robert Cecil, son of my Lord Salisbury, D'Israeli's noble patron.

To the House of Commons in the evening, where everything betokened a great debate and division; and it is interesting to see what a full House the Education Question brings together. A number of Independent ministers in the lobby, disciples of Mr. Baines, of Leeds. Curious to think that the sect of Independents, two hundred years ago, was led by Oliver Cromwell, and that now it is headed by so small a man as the Editor of the "Leeds Mercury!" Listened to Gladstone's oily speech in praise of the voluntary principle, and remembered that he began life as the great antagonist of voluntarism by publishing "The State in connection with the Church," which Macaulay demolished so fiercely in the "Edinburgh." Lord John plucky to the last, and when he rose, at half-past twelve, reminded the House of the storm that had been provoked by former educational proposals of his, which he had lived, however, to see carried out. All his resolutions were withdrawn except the first, a very harmless one. Yet so strong is the feeling against him, that though the Ministry supported him on this one resolution, he and they were beaten by an immense majority.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12.

The "Times" this morning in ecstasies with last night's division, and preaching the purest Bainesism, which, in days of yore, it loved so to demolish. Such is life! At the club, the anti-Palmerstonians in great glee on what they consider to be a Ministerial defeat, and predicting the speedy break up of the Ministry. The "Press," Disraeli's organ, writes to-day to the same tune. A Cabinet Council in the afternoon, which sat for four hours, and the feeling general among the Palmerstonians that the Premier must dissolve. Another dead set is to be made upon him on Monday night, by Henry Baillie, on the American Enlistment business, on which the Opposition hope, with aid from the Liberals, to upset the Ministry. No signs, however, of a falling Minister in the attendance at Lady Palmerston's reception to-night, which was more than usually brilliant and crowded.

MONDAY, APRIL 14.

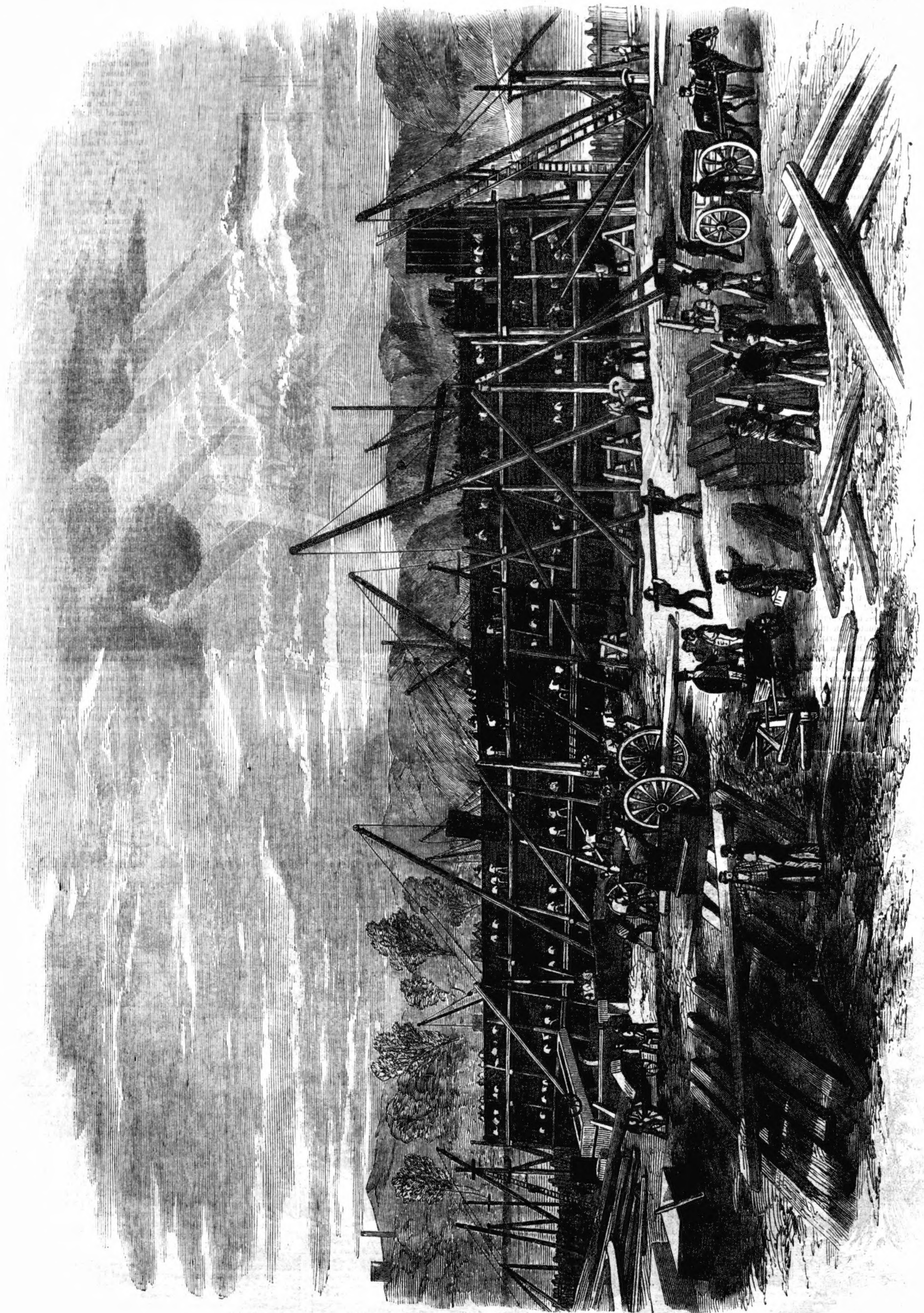
A savage article in the "Times," recommending Lord John Russell to retire into the House of Lords and private life. How the leading journal loves to kick a fallen man! Rumours of renewed offers from the Premier for a coalition with the Peelites, who cannot form a government by themselves, and with whom Lord Derby will now have nothing to do.

To Westminster in the evening. A very full House in expectation of Baillie's motion, which was withdrawn, however, on Lord Palmerston's promise to produce the American correspondence in a few days. The House went into Committee of Supply, but after one division, forced upon it by that bore of bores, Mr. George Hadfield, and in which he found himself alone in the lobby, with two supporters, against 269 in the other, I had enough of it, and stepped into the House of Peers. Found there the Duke of Argyll, in a state of fluent excitement, his red hair streaming in the storm, caused by the violent motion of his arms, and with his back to the woollack, trying to prove to Lord Albemarle that torture in India is an immemorial practice, and not thought so much about there as here! This is the same Duke who was so gracious to Mrs. Beecher Stowe, and so loud in his praise of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." How easy for the official breed (is there such a thing?) to sympathise with the American negro, while it is hard as stone to the tortured Hindoo!

TUESDAY, APRIL 15.

A letter in this morning's "Times," from "W." on the Kazarsky monument at Sebastopol. "W." no doubt is Mr. Thomas Watts, of the British Museum, one of the few Englishmen who are deeply versed in Russian literature, and the man to whom the Library of the Museum owes its excellent collection of Russian books. "W." winds up by recommending English literary men to learn Russian, and introduce in this country a knowledge of Russian literature. Not a bad idea, and one, the execution of which will probably follow in the train of the peace.

FRANK GRAVE.



THE MONSTER FLOATING BATTERY. IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION BY MESSRS. ROBERT NAFFER AND SONS, GLASGOW.

THE EARL OF LUCAN.

THE charges contained in the report of Tulloch and McNeill against Lord Lucan, and the investigations which are now taking place at the Chelsea Hospital respecting them, will invest the accompanying portrait of his Lordship with no ordinary interest. In presenting our readers with this faithful likeness of the Noble Earl, we have no wish at present to enter upon the merits of the various accusations brought against him. In this article, we neither prejudice his case, as the "Times" has done, nor stand up as his apologists, as the "Morning Post" seems inclined to do, but simply narrate a few of the leading events of his life. These, though in themselves meagre enough, at the present moment assume considerable importance, in consequence of the notoriety which the subject of them, by his alleged negligence, has attained.

The Earl of Lucan, then, is known as George Charles Bingham, the third Earl of Lucan, of Castlebar, county of Mayo, in the peerage of Ireland, and a Baronet of Nova Scotia; Lord-Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Mayo; a Knight of the Order of St. Anne of Russia, second class. His Lordship was born on the 17th of April, 1800, and is now in his 56th year. When just entered on his 17th year, he, as Lord Bingham, was, on the 29th of August, 1816, gazetted a cornet in the 17th Lancers. On the 24th of December, 1818, he became lieutenant; captain on the 16th of May, 1822; major the 23rd of June, 1825; lieutenant-colonel the 9th of November, 1826; colonel the 23rd of November, 1841; and major-general the 11th of November, 1851. His Lordship married on the 29th of June, 1829, Lady Anne Brudenell, seventh daughter of Robert, the sixth Earl of Cardigan, by whom he has issue, George Lord Bingham, of the Coldstream Guards, and now extra aide-de-camp to his father.

His Lordship, anxious for active service, succeeded in obtaining his Sovereign's sanction to visit the Russian camp on the Pruth, in the year 1828, and he accordingly joined the Russian general Diebitsch, as a volunteer in the campaign against the Turks. He served with the Russian forces at Varna and Schumla, and thence he proceeded to the lines of Widdin, from which he returned and rejoined Diebitsch. So pleased was the Emperor of Russia with his gallant conduct in this campaign, that he conferred on him the order of the

Knight of St. Anne of the second class. In the campaign of 1829, he proceeded with Diebitsch across the Balkans, having had entrusted to him the command of a division of the Russian cavalry, which he handled to the entire satisfaction of the Russian general, bringing his corps in the best order before the walls of Adrianople, where the Turks made a treaty of peace, jeopardised if not abrogated by the present war.

During our long peace, the great ambition of Lord Lucan was to obtain the command of his regiment, and to secure it he gave £20,000 for the Lieutenant-Colonelcy. He retired on half-pay in 1836, so that for his expenditure of the immense sum just named he was in the receipt of only £280 per annum. On the 30th of June, 1839, he succeeded to the earldom and estates, and now, with an income of upwards of £40,000 a-year, he never declined the "service paper," but always filled up an answer in the affirmative to the question, "Are you prepared to serve?" From his retirement on half-pay he was scarcely heard of by the public in a military capacity; yet he was frequently consulted by the Duke of Wellington on cavalry matters, his Grace having the highest confidence in his Lordship's judgment on this particular branch of the service.

The Earl of Lucan sits in the House of Lords as an Irish representative peer, having been elected in 1843, on the death of the Earl of Enniskillen. His Lordship has a large estate in England, between Staines and Chertsey, in Surrey, the mansion of which is called Laleham; but the great bulk of his property is in the County of Mayo, and the family residence at Castlebar. Upon retiring from the army, Lord Lucan became the largest cattle dealer in the empire; and conceiving it to be profitable to his interest to set about improving his estates in Ireland, he went to work in right earnest, regardless of the political storm he was thereby invoking. In a short time he got possession of about 30,000 acres in Mayo, from a tenantry steeped to the lips in misery, and hanging in rags. This brought down upon him the sweet voices of those to whom the reminiscence of his ancestor's conduct at the battle of Aughrim had been carefully handed down, and from that faction he received the reverse of the character of a good landlord. He was, however, consoled very considerably by the substantial returns of those acres, as well as being fortified by



THE EARL OF LUCAN, COMMANDER OF THE CAVALRY IN THE CRIMEA.



THE JEWS' WALK AT ODESSA.

the approval of the proprietors of other Irish estates, many of whom were acting in like manner.

After a few years devoted to oil-planting cattle and directing the plough, the Earl of Lucan, obtaining his grades, in due time was heard of again, but not until his quondam admirer, the Emperor of Russia, signified his intention of pressing Turkey to do justice to the Greek Church. Unknown to the English public as an officer of distinction, when Lord Hardinge appointed the Earl of Lucan to the chief command of the cavalry division in the East, all asked, "Who is this general?" The General Commanding-in-Chief at the Horse Guards, however, knew him. He had had high encomiums on Lucan's fitness for command from the Iron Duke; he had also in his remembrance the opinion entertained of his Lordship's qualifications by Sir Joseph Thackeray—he had the Czar's autograph testimonial of how this British officer, when young and even unknown in this country, led to victory, through dangerous defiles, and over the Balkan impediments, the troops of the self-same potentate, down to the close of the war before Adrianople. Good! Who more fitted than he who, knowing the foe and our ally, to take the part of one and aid the chastising of the other? His Lordship was posted—his second in command being the Earl of Cardigan, as general of the Light Cavalry Brigade—the third lieutenant being Scarlett, of the 5th Dragoon Guards—true as steel. Lieutenant-General the Earl of Lucan departed for the East with the high trust of the cavalry command. What did he for the glory of England, with the handful of cavaliers under his charge? We seek it in the Crimea—not at Alma—that was fire and bayonet. But we find it in the Crimea—on the 25th of October, 1854. Who is that horseman spurring so desperately towards Lord Lucan? It is Nolan, aide-de-camp to the Quartermaster-General, Brigadier Airey. He utters a few words to his Lordship, and hands him a paper bearing the following words:—

"Lord Raglan wishes the cavalry to advance rapidly in front, follow the enemy, and try to prevent their carrying away the guns. Troop of Horse Artillery may accompany. French cavalry is on the left. Immediate.—R. AIREY."

The Earl of Lucan saw the desperate nature of the work cut out for the light cavalry by this imperative order. He paused a moment or two, and then observed to Captain Nolan, "We may advance; but what can we do?" To which the bearer of the "order" replied, pointing towards the retreating Russians in the distance, "There is the enemy bearing off the guns we are ordered to save." The Lieutenant-General sent the instructions to Lord Cardigan. The commander of the light cavalry received the order, and after protesting against it, he at once proceeded to obey. There was no time to send back to Lord Raglan. The moment was a critical one, and the opportunity for an endeavour to recapture the guns would have gone off by further hesitation. A grave matter would have arisen from disobedience to the word "immediate" for inquiry at headquarters. The brigade would have lost caste; and the reputation of brave officers would have been tarnished by whispers of something approaching to cowardice.

Of his subsequent career and the charges now undergoing investigation, we have no wish at present to speak. We leave our readers to draw their own conclusions from the evidence given before the Crimean Board of Inquiry.

THE JEWS' WALK AT ODESSA.

Now that Peace is at length assured to us, we are somewhat anxious to resume our friendly relations with that colossal Power with whom we have been for the past two years at war. Merchants are already entering into large speculations in Russian produce, and, if report says truly, more than one literary man of celebrity is on his way to the Russian frontier, there to await the ratification of that treaty which will procure him an entrance, if not a welcome, into the territory of the Czar. If Russian places and Russian people were interesting objects of study to us at the outset of the war, they bid fair to become more so now that peace reigns triumphant. Among Russian cities, perhaps the one in which we, as a commercial nation, feel the most interest, is Odessa, which forms the *entrepôt* for the interior of Bessarabia, New Russia, and even a few of the central Russian governments, as Podolia, Volhynia, and the Ukraine. Produce is generally exported in an unmanufactured state, while only few foreign goods are admitted, owing to the well-known protective system in Russia. These, again, are of more benefit to the town itself, which is a free port, than to the interior. From this cause, Odessa, although a Russian town, contains but very little of Russian manufacture. All, with the exception of raw produce, sent there, is obtained from Europe. On an average, the export trade produces an annual amount of forty million silver roubles, or twice or thrice more than the imports.

The objects of exportation are principally corn (the greater part rye), tallow, and wool. The first of these is derived from the Ukraine, Podolia, and Bessarabia; the other two from New Russia. The tallow is chiefly purchased by the English, and used for machinery purposes. It is generally procured from animals. Meat, through the paucity of consumption, has so small a value in the above-mentioned provinces of Russia, that it is usually boiled down for the sake of the fat. As regards the wool, it is generally of an inferior sort, and commands about the same price as the Australian.

The Russians in their attempts at colonisation, form a perfect contrast to other nations, who are generally careful, whenever they have settled in some remote corner of the world, to render their new abode comfortable as soon as they possibly can, and to enter into friendly communication with their neighbours. Before all, they therefore make roads and build inns: these are followed, when the population increases, by other methods of communication, among them railways: the former solitude has disappeared within a few years. Not so the Russian, who has a much less desire to connect himself with his fellow men. He only troubles himself in the first instance about the spot on which he has settled; it is a matter of indifference to him how other persons, whose absence he does not care for, can reach him, or whether they may desire to enter into friendly relations with him. This indifference towards strangers, the Russ has not even toned down in a town like Odessa, which has had such a rapid growth in the short space of three quarters of a century, that it now contains nearly 100,000 inhabitants.

It can scarcely be credited that a town, which is entirely dependent on the interior provinces, and has grown rich through their produce, has done nothing at all to facilitate the mode of communication for the poorer inhabitants of New Russia and Bessarabia. The streets of Odessa are only macadamised, but not paved; and even this roadway ceases after the barrier is once passed. As long as it is good weather and the ground is dry, all goes well, for it is quick travelling on the illimitable steppe; but woe to the traveller who is compelled to proceed into the interior of the country during a rainy season. Bottomless roads delay him for days.

Odessa can only boast of one public walk, and this is situated in the best part of the town and near to the harbour. Every Saturday this walk is crowded by the Israelitish inhabitants, who constitute a large proportion of the entire population, and who, with their families, pass the greater portion of the day under the cool shade of the chestnut and lime trees, with which the walk is freely planted. For these numerous Jews there are but three Synagogues in Odessa, and these are very unpretending looking buildings. Like the Protestant places of worship, they more resemble private dwellings than temples of religion.

TROOPS FOR THE UNITED STATES FRONTIERS.—An order was received in Limerick on Saturday last from the Horse Guards, for drafts from the 9th, 17th, and 39th Regiments to be held in readiness for immediate embarkation for Malta, there to join their service companies, and proceed direct to Upper Canada. The depot of the 9th Regiment will furnish 100 rank and file, with one ensign, for this service, and their departure is daily expected. The strength of the drafts of the 17th and 39th are also to be 100. It is reported that 10,000 men are to be sent from the Crimea to Canada, under the command of Sir Richard Eyre. On this movement, the part of the troops the "Daily News" says—"We can state, upon good authority, that during the war nearly all the gunpowder was withdrawn from Canada, and as many of the troops as could be spared; and that the movements of men and ammunition towards that province which are now in progress, are simply the consequence of the necessity of replacing them, and indicate no hostile feeling towards the United States, or expectation of war in that quarter."

SPLENDID PRESENTATION ENGRAVING TO THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES

The PROPRIETORS OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES beg to announce to their Subscribers that it is their intention to issue with the number for May 24th, 1856, her Majesty's Birthday, instead of on May 3rd, as previously announced, a beautifully engraved

LIFE SIZE

PORTRAIT OF

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

Enclosed in a magnificent Ornamental Border of appropriate design.

This Engraving, which has been several months in preparation, has been executed from a drawing made especially for the purpose, and may claim to rank with the most successful portraits of her Majesty heretofore published.

No expense has been spared to render this work of art worthy of its illustrious subject, and it is believed that this, in conjunction with the unusual scale on which it has been produced, will fairly entitle it to be considered unique.

The size of the paper on which the engraving will be printed is 25 inches by 33. None but the finest impressions will be permitted to leave the office, and only regular purchasers of the paper will be supplied with them.

The price of the number of the "ILLUSTRATED TIMES," together with this elaborate Engraving, will be fourpence. The nominal sum charged for the Engraving will be merely the cost of the paper on which it is printed. It will not be compulsory on Purchasers of the newspaper to buy the Engraving, but no copies of the Engraving will be sold distinct from the newspaper upon any consideration whatever.

Specimen impressions will be delivered to the trade in a few days.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1856.

CRIMEAN LESSONS.

THERE are two classes of persons to be blamed for the wild, sad work we made of wintering in the Crimea. The first comprises those at home, who never thought or foresaw that wintering would be necessary. The second comprises those who did not do all they might have done on the spot. It is useless for one set to blame the other. They cannot so shift the blame: they must bear it in common; and, with the exception of here and there a burst of temper, they seem to bear it very well. No doubt Lord LUCAN ought to have been better supplied with forage; no doubt the weather was severe, and "hutting" a laborious process. But the question about him is, whether he made the most of the resources at his command, such as they were? He can scarcely have expected to find the Crimea as well supplied with conveniences as Portsmouth.

Lord LUCAN's altercation with Colonel GRIFFITHS, naturally calls attention to one feature of these matters. No man will go down with our rulers but a Lord; and the way in which peerages are bestowed is such, that persons with no pretensions over other gentlemen except titular ones, are set in authority over them. The LUCAN peerage is an affair of yesterday; the CARDIGAN one is not very aristocratic. Yet LUCAN and CARDIGAN were run up at racing speed to a rank in the army which placed the cavalry under them at the first hint of war. It turns men's heads,—particularly a certain kind of head—such exaltation. It makes them vain, haughty, and hasty, and contemptuous of opinion; so that even advice assumes to some the guise of impertinence. Lord LUCAN cannot understand a human being's offering a suggestion—and yet he is not such a genius as to be able to do without it. People will put up with a great deal from a great man, and have been known to follow to the death generals whom they feared without loving; but what can you make of a general who inspires neither fear nor affection, whose temper everybody detests, without respecting his intellect? If we cannot get over this cur-like regard for mere title—this modern servility to rank only—which has as little to do with feudalism as with common sense, we must make up our minds to the worst. At this moment, the war-loving section of the Yankees think they can bully us as they like, because, when it comes to the scratch, we shall send a LUCAN against them—a man who, by his own admission, does not know his own work. For we suppose, that the work of a general includes a great deal more than the power of galloping with a plume in his hat. Fancy a sailor who was just up to taking a part in a regatta inside the Isle of Wight; who did not know how to ship a jury-mast; or what to do if his rudder was damaged! Yet such a man would be not more helpless than some soldiers we have seen. Here we have a General who does not know how to set about making huts, and not knowing that, can think of nothing else. His men and horses fall dying and dead about him, as if by pestilence. When inquiries are made into it all, he cannot exculpate himself, but must needs try and blame everybody else; and when he is exposed by the industry of a military officer, he sneers at him as "a statistical clerk." In the first place, a good statistical clerk is a much more useful person than a bad general; in the second place, a peerage (a generation old) is not a possession which makes a man sublimely superior to the opinion of a high civil or military servant of the Crown. Lord LUCAN will find, on inquiry, that men like Lord STANLEY and Lord LINDSAY, Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Lord GREY—men of various opinions, and all of much higher aristocracy than his own—find nothing contemptible in the labours of men of intelligence, but respect them, recognise them, and try to emulate them. Unquestionably, Lord LUCAN has, by this sneer, revealed a feeling which we thought was going out even of crack regiments—a disposition to sneer at civil pursuits, which was laughed at in the last generation, even when exhibited by men who had conquered at Austerlitz. Viewed in this light, such a gibe rises above the dignity of gibe, and is important, as significant of the feeling of men placed by accident in positions of rank and importance.

There is but one way in which we can insure ourselves against these disasters—that way is the establishment of military colleges, open to persons not necessarily either of high rank or property, and in which the test of competition shall alone insure military employment. Other professions can somewhat dispense with tests and ex-

aminations. A lawyer who does not know his business must soon fail to get employment; but you do not, under the present military régime, know a soldier's talents and skill, till a time when the want of them must needs have insured immeasurable mischief. Thus, our first Crimean lesson; we had better make up our minds to it thus early. The "expense" is nothing: it is not a matter in which expense is of any consequence; and, besides, the money spent in military education would be saved out of the money saved by insuring competence. Nothing is so expensive as ignorance and failure: the cash invested in mending bad ships, for instance, is more than gold ones could be built for by rational men. In the Crimea we saw troop-horses, worth £75, killed over work which would have been better done by ponies worth £5.

We know that it is plausible, and looks benevolent, to say, "All is over—the dead are buried—the taxes are coming in—peace is made: let us let things alone!" But this is unjust: to the dead, who fell by the system, who might never have fallen by the foe to the living, whose merits are kept under for the sake of LUCAN and CARDIGAN. It is likewise hideously foolish. Who supposes that all wars are over, or that the present quiet of Europe is anything but the calm of exhaustion, re-action, and dulness of heart?—that there are no more swords to be drawn for the rights of nations and the hopes (rational or irrational) of aspiring men? Who supposes, Russia is dead, or Turkey reformed, or passion extinct in the human heart? Or who supposes that England will be able to maintain her eminence or her institutions, if she does not go in an altogether different way to work than the way which we see exhibited in the records of the Crimean Inquiry?

FRAUDS BY-NOT ON-INSURANCE COMPANIES.

WHEN, some weeks ago, we undertook to enlighten the public with regard to frauds committed upon Life Assurance Companies by individuals, we confined ourselves to our subject, and said nothing in reference to the frauds committed by insurance companies on the public. The insurance companies did not, however, delude themselves with the belief that we were ignorant of the malpractices in which certain of them indulged; and, accordingly, we found several of the secretaries unwilling, in the first instance, to afford us any information respecting the business they were in the habit of transacting, knowing well enough, as they did, that their deeds would no more bear the light than those chemical products which become decomposed directly they are brought into the presence of a single ray. We have shown that, to defraud an insurance company, it is only necessary to be an inhabitant of Ireland (to which "unfortunate" country the English law on insurance does not apply)—to have a friend, who is either an incurable invalid, or an equally incurable drunkard—to get a physician, who is probably without practice, and certainly without conscience, to certify that the said friend is sound in health, or sober in habits (as the case may or may not be)—to insure the individual's life, lend him a small sum of money on the policy, and apply, with a mourning-band round your hat, for the insurance money directly the subject of the insurance is safe under ground. Strictly speaking, it is not even necessary that the "life" insured should have ceased to exist, since the popular expedient of "personation" can, without difficulty, be resorted to. We say nothing about cases which terminated with the murder of the person whose life has been insured, although some such occur in a quiet manner, of which the public hear nothing, and about which the companies do not feel bound to take the slightest notice, provided they can make the applicant for the insurance money accept a reduced sum in lieu of his original demand, or, in instances where the guilt is evident, waive his claim altogether. The frauds, however, are not all on the side of the public. Most individuals who wilfully accept the chance of being swindled, become themselves swindlers in return; and everyone who is aware of the careless way in which proposals are accepted by some of the young insurance companies, must have been struck by the probability that equal carelessness would be displayed by them in the matter of providing for just claims. The man who risks his fortune at *rouge et noir* generally becomes a "bonnet" at a gambling-house directly he is in want of money.

The life insurance swindle appears to be one of the easiest going. The insurance companies complain of being frequently defrauded through having "lives," offered to them as healthy, which are either consumptive or intemperate. The insurance companies not only abhor intemperance and consumption, but have extraordinary faith in bottles of cold water and stethoscopes, and accordingly a bottle of cold water and a stethoscope are the first articles of furniture with which the reception-room of an insurance is supplied. The room should, of course, have its arm-chairs; its table covered with green baize, like a billiard-table without cushions; and its almanac; but, above all things, it is necessary that it should have its cold water and its stethoscope, which are as essential to its existence as the lancet and cold water were to that of Dr. Sangrado.

Beyond the two essential articles in question, it is as well to have a few pounds for the payment of current expenses, but it appears, that with only a balance of perhaps fifty, but certainly not a hundred, pounds at the banker's, an almost unlimited amount of business may be done. One company, the Protestant Life and Fire Office, the condition of which has just come before the public, accepted proposals (and premiums, as a matter of course) on policies of life assurance, when it not only had no assets in hand, but was unable even to raise sufficient money to pay the rent of its offices.

The Deposit and General Life Office has also just acquired an unenviable notoriety. The Company held a meeting of Shareholders last week, to which reporters were not admitted. The Society, however, drew up a report of its own, which was forwarded to the papers, and refused insertion by some, while in others it appeared as an advertisement. It appears that at the meeting, which was doubtless of a very stormy description, the report prepared by the auditors was read and disapproved of, tending as it did to show that the company was in a state of bankruptcy. The report states that the accounts show "a deficiency of income to meet expenses, and losses amounting to £32,841 6s. 8d., and that no provision has been made for current risks under policies amounting to £172,000." They observe that £1,095 has been paid to the proprietors as dividends, notwithstanding "that not only has no surplus accrued in any one year since the establishment of the company, but, on the contrary, each year has shown a considerable balance against them." They remark upon the practice pursued by the company of providing for loans by discounting with their bankers the securities given by the borrowers and their sureties. They remind the shareholders, that, apart from the amount of capital which has been expended, "they owe £17,561 8s. 10d., while their total assets of every description amount only to £6,860 13s. 5d., out of which sum £5,154 14s. 3d. is unavailable." Finally, they give it as their opinion, that, until the company is in possession of funds to meet its current risks, it is not justified in issuing any more policies—a point which they the more strongly urge, because, by the constitution of the company, the "policy-holders, who are so largely interested, have no voice in its management." The directors discovered "malice" in the foregoing report, and drew up one of their own, which of course showed that the society was eminently solvent.

"A resolution was then put and carried, to the effect, 'That the meeting was of opinion that the board had consulted the best interests of the members by declining to sanction the accounts and report of the auditors.'"

"Another resolution" (we quote from the report) "was then put and carried, proposing a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum."

"The directors for some time objected to this, as they had no funds to meet a dividend; but a shareholder offered to lend them enough, and they withdrew their opposition."

The notion of shareholders lending money to directors in order to enable directors to pay dividends to shareholders, is an ingenious one no doubt, but will appear inexplicable to persons of straightforward habits.

The recent revelations about these societies will, we trust, put the public on their guard, for if there be one thing against which prudent persons must insure themselves, it is, above all, against insurance companies.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN'S ball, previously announced for Friday, the 6th of June, will not be held on Tuesday, the 17th of June next.

THE QUEEN has given a dinner to Mr. Noble, for a celebrated poet for the Town of London.

THE QUEEN will hold a Drawing-room on the 23rd of May, in celebration of the Queen's birthday.

QUEEN visited the Adelphi Theatre, last week, for the first time since taken a Royal box at that house.

ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT will, it is said, pay a short visit to the south of the summer, for the purpose of representing her Majesty's son of the Imperial infant son of the Emperor and Empress of the East.

SIR R. POOT, M.P., and LADY EMILY POOT, have returned to town from a tour in Italy, and the Hon. Baronet has resumed his official duties at the Admiralty.

"TIMES" has been seized in France on account of its containing a libel on the Pope.

THE MOND, the French Protestant minister, died last week, at the age of 80.

DR. VILLIERS, the celebrated American quack, according to recent accounts, has been declared bankrupt; a gigantic speculation with the Jerome Clock Company having caused his ruin.

MR. HENRY R. BARROW is appointed third-class clerk in the Accountant-General's department of the Admiralty; and Mr. Frederick Scott Tanner is appointed third-class clerk in the Controller of Victuallings department at the Admiralty.

MR. ROBERT PARRY NISBET, a Liberal Conservative, has been elected without opposition for Chippenham, in the place of the late Mr. Nisbet.

THE TREATY OF ALGERIA, which was signed on the 10th of June, 1830, is now being celebrated in the city of Algiers.

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FRENCH ARMY in the Crimea was, according to a despatch of the 7th inst., greatly improved.

THE HON. AND REV. DR. H. MONTAGUE VILLIERS, late rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury, was on Sunday last consecrated to the Bishopric of Carlisle.

THE LONDON CAB PROPRIETORS, at a meeting held last week, agreed to grant 20 or 30 one-horse stage-carriages, to be at the same fare as the omnibuses, with not fewer than 20 on each road.

JOSEPH N. CHAFFER, the Government clerk at Foulton, was yesterday for the embezzlement of £1,150, found guilty of larceny, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

MISS GLEN has been performing the Cleopatra of Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" at the Standard Theatre, with Mr. Marston as the illustrious soldier.

POSTAGE STAMPS, similar to those used in England and France, were on Feb. 25th introduced into Sweden, and a universal rate of postage adopted.

MR. CAVENDISH, M.P., has been prevented from returning to his Parliamentary duties since the Easter holidays, by successive relapses of influenza, which have detained him in Yorkshire.

CORNET ORRIDGE, it is said, contemplates something grand in the dinner way, in Paris, as soon as the Russian Embassy recovers from the measles.

LORENZO D'ALVAREZ arrived at Sanz on the 2nd inst., and left Alexandria on his way to England, by the Caracole on the 7th.

A SCOTLAND CORVETTE has been ordered to proceed for taking over a deputation of French naval officers to the review of the fleet at Cherbourg.

MR. MANNING is reported to have urged on the Congress at Paris a resolution of the claims of Prussia to Neuchâtel.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, it is rumoured, will certainly pay a visit to Germany during the stay of his mother at the German baths.

ABOUT 50,000 persons assembled on Sunday in Kensington Gardens and the adjacent park, to hear the band of the Royal Horse Guards Blue.

GENERAL WILLIAMS, according to a despatch from Malta of the 9th inst., is to be honoured with the mission to arrange the Asiatic frontier.

THE GENERAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES convened a large and influential public meeting at the London Tavern on Tuesday, to determine on the best means to be taken to insure the immediate re-establishment of our steam postal relations with Australia.

MAXIMIAN's picture representing the Virgin and Child enthroned, under a canopy, with St. John the Baptist and the Magdalen standing, is now added to the collection in the National Gallery.

IN ST. PETERSBURG the terms of peace are generally considered as favourable; and the Russian press, it is said, not backward in expressing their acknowledgments to the result.

THE POWER of the Clyde Grain Mills, Glasgow, exploded on the 11th, causing the loss of five lives, and destroying a large amount of property.

A TE DEUM, in thanksgiving for peace, was sung on Sunday, at St. George's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Southwark.

THE LATE SAMUEL ROGERS's magnificent collection of pictures, with the exception of the three bequeathed to the nation, are to be sold by auction on the 25th inst.

AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT, on Saturday last, a Mlle. Tornberg, a young lady about 20, played the flute with great success.

A MONUMENT TO WILLIAM ROSCOE, the historian, has just been erected in the Christian Chapel, Renshaw Street, Liverpool, where all that was mortal of Roscoe was interred.

MR. J. WINTER JONES has received the appointment of Keeper of Printed Books to the British Museum.

MR. DE MÜNCKHAUSEN, the second of the late M. de Hinckeldey in the fatal duel, has resumed his functions at the Ministry of the Interior.

THE MADRID JOURNALS state that the Queen of Spain has presented Ronconi with a valuable crown of gold, representing leaves of laurel, and ornamented with brilliants; also, that the directors of the Circo have presented him with a crown in silver, with their names, four in number, engraved on it.

THE DISCOVERY SHIP RESOLVE is to be sold for the benefit of those who brought her into port, the British Government having abandoned all claim to the vessel.

AT LISBON, it appears to be generally believed that Queen Victoria will visit Portugal this year.

A COMMON HALL of the Livery of the City of London was held on Tuesday, at the Guildhall, to oppose the provisions of Sir George Grey's bill, recently introduced into Parliament for reforming the Corporation of the City of London.

THE LAST OF THE ENGLISH FLEET, consisting of the frigates Imperieuse, Furieuse, Pylades, Amphion, and the corvettes Falcon, Harnett, Cuckoo, and Lady, passed the Belt on Sunday last, on their way home.

MR. AND MRS. KELLEY commenced an engagement extending over six nights at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Monday last.

AT THE CONVOCATION OF THE CLERGY, held on Tuesday, the petition for the restoration of Wesleyan Methodists to the Church of England, by means of the admission of their ministers to episcopal ordination, came under the consideration of the Upper House, and, after some opposition, it was agreed that it should be postponed to the 10th.

THE NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE MADRAS ARMY, General Patrick Grant, being about to leave this country, to enter upon his trust, the magistrates and town council of Inverness, on Thursday week, conferred on him the freedom of the town.

THE SURGERY AT FORT PITT HOSPITAL, Chatham, is to undergo extensive alterations, in order to afford superior accommodation to the large number of medical officers stationed at that establishment.

GENERAL LARCHET received a sabre from the Sultan, on the occasion of his departure from Constantinople for France.

THE REV. H. ROBERT, Protestant minister, died about the 1st of the month at Constantinople, from an attack of typhus.

THE KING OF SWEDEN has made a present to the city of Stockholm of a little island situated opposite to the Royal Chateau in the Lake Malar.

PROFESSOR OWEN, F.R.S., of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, has commenced a course of four lectures upon Natural History, at the Royal Manchester Institution.

MR. KOSSTHART arrived in Liverpool on Sunday; and delivered his first lecture on the Concordat on Monday last, in the Concert Hall.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

There is a chance for the restoration of Italy; and various fundamental reforms are proposed for her. She has a patriotic and a clever representative in Count Cavour, and as out of evil comes good, M. de Walewski, who people will persist in regarding as a rather jeopardised Western interests in Italy, is now secure peace, now speaks out like a man for the freedom of Italy from internal selfishness and Austrian influence, and is, of course, warmly seconded by Lord Clarendon. Three great changes are suggested. First, the unity of the Italian States; secondly, the withdrawal of the Austrian troops; thirdly, the abrogation of the Papal power in temporal matters. These all sound well; by the first, the still benighted Central and Southern States would be brought into intercourse with Piedmont and Genoa, and be able to see what advantages the latter have obtained by the adoption of liberal principles and the encouragement of education. By the second, a great check would be given to the ever-increasing arrogance of the most arrogant country in Europe; and by the third, the Pope would be placed in his proper position, as head of his own church, a position in which, as spiritual ruler, he would be respected, while at present, so blind are his subjects to the benefits of his temporal power, that he is insulted on every possible opportunity; while his rule is only maintained in his own capital by the presence of foreign bayonets. Of course, to these proposed reforms, Count Baul, as Austrian Plenipotentiary, objects; but it is hoped that the plan, or, at least, a slight modification of it, will be carried.

There is a good anecdote about Mr. Abraham Hayward, whose correspondence with Mr. Croker and M. de Montalembert's new book I adverted to last week. It appears that Mr. Hayward has a fondness for high society, a distinguished member of which he considers himself; and, one day, being asked to dine with a certain Duke, and finding that Thackeray was also invited, he proposed that they should share a cab there together. On their way, Mr. Hayward was very grand in his discourse, and was kind enough to instruct his friend as to the manner in which he ought to conduct himself in the distinguished company which he was about to join. Thackeray bore it all very patiently, and apparently listened attentively—but he had his revenge. When they had arrived at their destination, and were standing in the hall, surrounded by a crowd of liveried servants, Thackeray walked gravely up to Hayward, and, in a low, hoarse voice, offered to him his share of the cab fare! You can imagine Mr. Hayward's dismay at what he considered such dreadful vulgarity.

We may soon reckon upon the publication of a circumstantial and interesting life of the late Duke of Wellington, as Mr. Montgomery Martin has been engaged at Apsley House in looking over his Grace's papers and memoranda, with a view to their arrangement for that purpose.

The Crimean Inquiry, in which, he it remembered, the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Raglan, is still engaged, is now being conducted by Lord Lytton, who is still in the Crimea. The inquiry is now being conducted by Lord Lytton, who is still in the Crimea. The inquiry is now being conducted by Lord Lytton, who is still in the Crimea.

I very much regret to have heard from private sources of the dangerous illness of Mr. St. John's Wood, who is said to be suffering from water on the chest, and whose recovery is almost despaired of by his medical attendants. The learned surgeon has retired to the Continent, leaving given up his post in the Palace to Mr. Bedford.

In continuation of my notes respecting the forthcoming Academy Exhibition, I may commence by observing, that it is pretty certain the public will miss several favourite names from the catalogue this year—among others, Macie, Redgrave, Dyce, and Creswick.

One of the most striking pictures in the Exhibition, I imagine, will be by John Phillip. It is, of course, a Spanish subject, and represents an Andalusian peasant drinking from a water-jar, in the manner common to the lower orders in Spain. This work is enthusiastically commended by his brother painters, as a perfect wonder in the way of skilful colouring. J. C. Hook gives us some more of those exquisitely felt and painted bits of the by-ways of English landscape, which he began to exhibit some two or three years back, to the surprise and gratification of his friends, who had no notion that he could paint anything but scenes from early Italian story. H. O'Neil has two pictures—one, a "Scene from 'As You Like It,'" a good picture; the other, "L'Enfant Trouvé," very striking—a girl is leaving her child in the basket, which is represented as just upon the turn, taking her child from her for ever; the girl's attitude is full of force and pathos, and a difficult effect of a blending of gaslight and moonlight has been very successfully painted. T. Eied has a companion to his picture of last year ("The Mitherless Bairn"), and one other picture, "Highland Mary" (Burns's mistress), both overflowing with sentiment, and excellent specimens of his power. Ansell has two pictures—one, "A Keeper calling up Deer to be fed," equal to any late picture of his; James Collinson, the painter of a small work called "Temptation," which attracted a large share of attention last year, sends a good picture; the subject is the return from the Crimea of two soldiers in the Guards, the one so changed as to be scarcely recognised by his wife, the other only too plainly jilted by the girl of his heart, who, in his absence, has transferred her affections to the keeping of a young sailor. The picture is called "The Return." E. W. Cooke exhibits several of his excellent marine subjects, which would be thought more of if they were not so directly subjected to comparison with Stanfield's. T. F. Marshall has three or four works; the principal one, full of life and character, is called "A Village Holiday." No one will doubt the perfect truthfulness of this picture, and many will see at a glance that it is from nature; the whole of the landscape was, in fact, "painted on the spot." A. Rankley has two pictures—one, "From the Cradle to the Grave," tells the story of the course of a life admirably well; the other is "A Village School." Both are effectively painted.

Sir Edwin Landseer is reported to have a wonderful picture this year for the Academy walls. The subject is "A Highland Flood," and represents a cabin in the Highlands surrounded by water, with inmates, animals, furniture, &c., all huddled together on the roof. Does Sir Edwin recollect that this subject was admirably treated by the late Mr. Bateman, in a picture exhibited in the Academy some years ago?

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The opening performance of the Royal Italian Opera, on Tuesday evening, was graced by the presence of her Majesty, and the usual brilliant aristocratic circle. The opera played was "Il Trovatore," cast, with one exception, in precisely the same manner as last season. The house has been elegantly decorated, after the Covent Garden model.

"LIKE AND UNLIKE" AT THE ADELPHI.

"Like and Unlike" is a good piece, though not so good as a person who had not seen it would have been led to believe, from a perusal of the article of that exceedingly complaisant gentleman, the theatrical critic of the "Times." As may be almost guessed from the title, the piece turns upon a question of mistaken identity, and is a translation from the French "Therese, ou Ange et Démon," by Messrs. Bayard and Arthur de Beauplan, who, I conceive, were originally indebted for the idea to a novel of Paul de Kock's. It is long since I indulged in such reading, but I think "La jolie Fille du Faubourg" is the story I mean. Mr. Harry Mowbray (Mr. Webster) is a Yorkshire gentleman, resident in Paris, utterly captivated by, and about to be married to, Lisette (Madame Celeste), a simple-hearted, virtuous seamstress, who has for a sister an extremely free-thinking, free-living opera dancer, beloved by Mr. Paul Potter (Mr. Wright), a semi-Manchester, semi-Parisian ass, and well known to Mowbray's cousin, Arthur Leslie (Mr. Selby), a rapid English dandy. These gentlemen, introduced by Mowbray to Lisette, of course mistake her for the bad sister, and work upon his feelings to such an extent, that he is induced to break off the match. Mowbray is broken-hearted. Both sisters leave Paris at the same time—the one to the bedside of her dying mother, the other for a German watering-place, where she succeeds in marrying a Russian Count. Both return at the same time—both are seen within five minutes by the wretched Mowbray, at a masked ball, where the Countess is a guest, and whither the seamstress, Lisette, has come to take home a dress; and the mistake is only discovered when Mowbray, urging the Russian Count

to a duel, accidentally wounds the Countess, who endeavours to separate them, and is borne away—Lisette immediately entering from another door. Mr. Webster's acting is admirable throughout the piece, and I know not which most to praise, his hearty manliness in the first act, or his broken, subdued melancholy disappointment in the second. Madame Celeste is also entitled to much praise; she discriminates well between the modesty of the seamstress and the worldly gaiety of the ballet-dancer; and her pathos, while effective, is not strained. Her changes of dress are quickly and capably managed. Mr. Wright, undoubtedly one of the best actors on the stage, when he chooses, did not choose on the night I saw him, for he buffooned and gagged throughout; but the people shouted, so I suppose his end was accomplished. Mr. Paul Bedford, in his elephantine playfulness, kept repeating his one joke, that everything "diverted him moche"—a feeling which, as regards his acting, was apparently not reciprocated by the audience. Mr. Selby acted his part a great deal better than he dressed it. A word for Mr. Garden, who played an old gentleman with sense and propriety.

THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

GRAY'S INN LANE is not the most salubrious, cleanly, or pleasantly populated thoroughfare in London. It is so narrow that there is but room for two vehicles to pass each other; the shops are small, filthy, and close-smelling—generally devoted to the retail of bad green-grocery, adulterated liquors, vicious newspapers, and rag-mag-looking meat. There are courts running at right angles to the "Lane," which would strike dismay into the heart of Lord Shaftesbury, and make Mr. F. O. Ward long to ventilate, and drain, and water-supply them at once. In these courts are apparently deposited all the trucks, costermongers' barrows, and fruit-stands of London. You may see them about nine o'clock in the morning pouring out of every alley, driven by sallow, woo-begone men, with the unmistakable Hibernian blue eye, cocked nose, and light hair—you may see them at nine o'clock in the evening coming back to what their owners, God help them! call home. All day long the wives and other female relations of these men are either shuffling in and out of the courts, or standing listlessly at the entrances—unkempt, slipshod, dirty women, clad apparently but in one garment, and even that, in most cases, unfashioned and ragged. The faces of these women are worn and macerated by famine and gin! the bones on their necks and hands seem almost protruding through the skin—their eyes are glassy, their whole demeanour utterly listless and uncaring. A visit to the gin-palace or the pawnshop, a thrashing from a drunken husband, the wake of a neighbour's child—these are all that ever break the monotony of their lives—these are all that ever interfere with work, misery, and starvation, except upon certain grand occasions, perhaps once in every two years or so; and then some fell disease—which has been hovering over the entire city, lights upon these courts, and finding everything congenial to his taste—miasma, squalid poverty, want of drainage, and utter absence of pure water—there fixes his headquarters, and there lingers longest. Then the aspect of the place is changed; the trucks, barrows, and baskets go out as usual, indeed, but there is no longer a little crowd round the entrances to the courts—no gossiping, no recrimination—the very shrieking of the children is hushed. There they lie, dying—there they die: thence are their bodies carried in the parish shell to the pauper's grave. Do they get medical advice and assistance? Not much of that, I fancy. The parish surgeon has his hands pretty full at these times, and he and his assistants have plenty to do in the Union and the more recognisable localities. Do they not get admitted into the hospitals? I should say not. A letter of introduction is requisite, a Governor must be hunted up, application made, interest excited; and who is to do all this for the family of a costermonger, renting a portion of a garret in Baldwin's Gardens, Gray's Inn Lane?

Situated, however, in their immediate neighbourhood, there is one establishment, the only one in this vast metropolis, where the destitute stranger, when overtaken by sickness and disease, can procure an immediate reception. To the Royal Free Hospital, no letter of introduction is required; the mere fact of the applicants being ill and destitute is sufficient passport, advice and medicine are at once afforded them, and the most extreme cases are admitted into the wards in as large numbers as the means at the disposal of the committee from time to time will allow. Persons of all countries and of all creeds are received, and while there is a chaplain for the spiritual consolation of those patients who are members of the Church of England, it is by no means uncommon to see a Roman Catholic priest, or occasionally even a Jewish Rabbi, by the bedside of a patient of their own persuasion. Hither come in crowds the destitute wretches from the courts to which I have been just alluding—hither come poor diseased strangers from the country, who, in the absence of such an establishment as this, being utterly unknown in London, would perish in the streets for want of assistance and advice—hither come foreigners of all colours, and here, within the walls of the Free Hospital, died the son of Nene, a New Zealand Chief who commanded the native forces on the British side in the war of the Bay of Islands, in the year 1845. Originally established in Greville Street, Hatton Garden, as "The London General Institution for the Gratuitous Care of Malignant Diseases," the Royal Free Hospital assumed its present title in the year 1835, by command of its then patron, King William IV. The Royal patronage is continued by the present Sovereign; and it will be seen that it is not ill bestowed, when I mention that, since the foundation of the Hospital in 1828, 521,493 poor diseased persons have been relieved by it. Nor is the good cause satisfied with the mere cure of the patient, but in many cases the sufferers are presented with clothes and small sums of money, while many unfortunate females, through the exertions of the committee and the chaplain, are restored to their friends with every prospect of becoming respectable members of society.

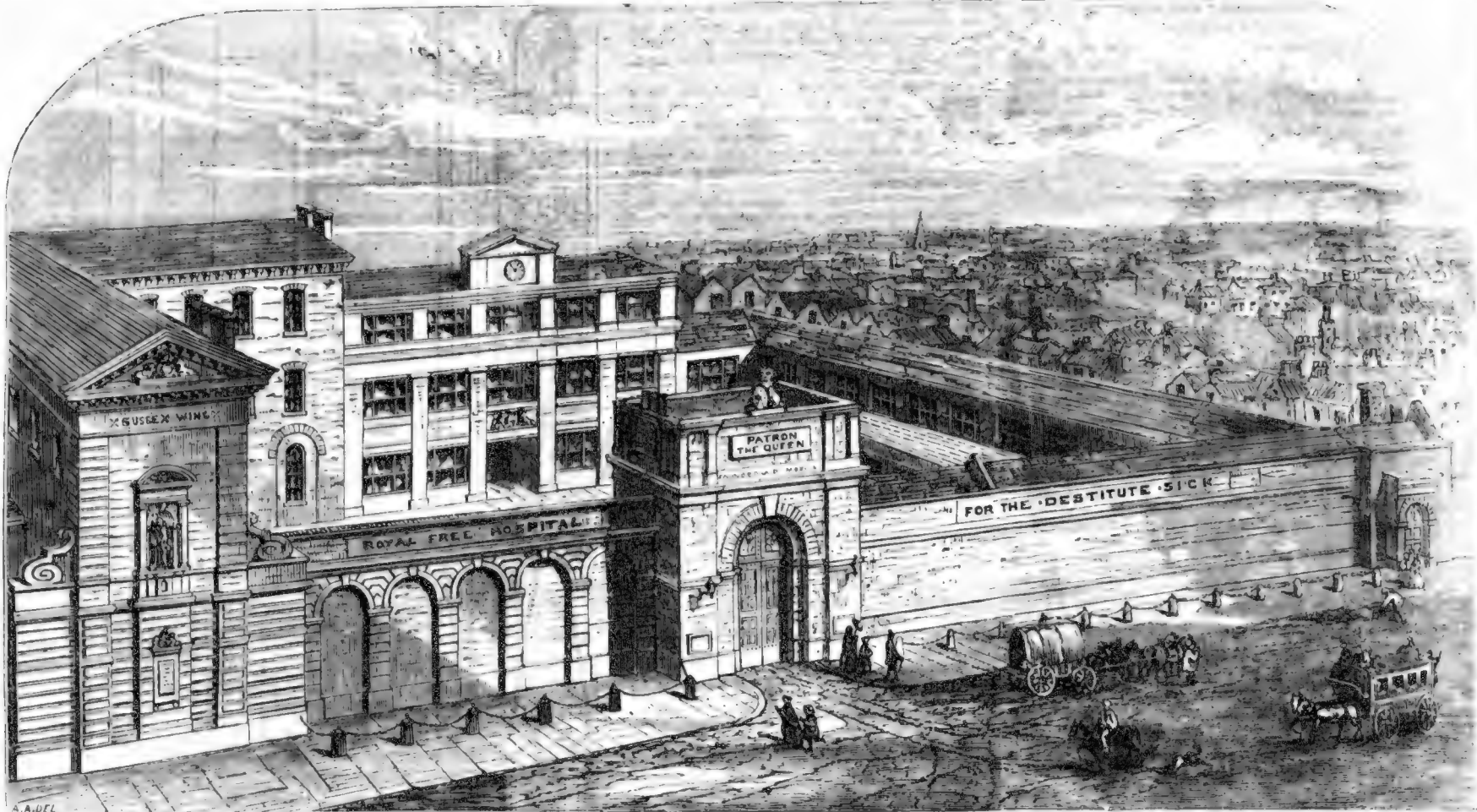
Like nearly all similar institutions, the Hospital is supported by voluntary contributions, subscriptions, and legacies. The operations of the charity, beneficial as they have hitherto been, will henceforth be on a much more extended scale. After the death of the late Duke of Sussex, a subscription was largely entered into by the Freemasons (of whom he was the Grand Master) and others, for the erection of a monument to his memory; and after much discussion, it was determined to add a large and commodious wing to the Royal Free Hospital, to be called the "Sussex Wing." This has accordingly been done, and the new wing will be ready for the reception of patients on the 18th of June next, on which day it will be opened, and the statue of the Duke of Sussex inaugurated with due ceremony.

THE LOUNGER.

THE ARCHITECTURAL MUSEUM.

A MEETING was held on Monday the 7th inst. of the members of the above Institute at their rooms, Canon Street, Westminster, for the purpose of distributing prizes to the successful competitors for the rewards offered during the past twelve months for the most approved specimens of stone and wood carving. The chair was taken at eight o'clock by Professor Cockerell, R.A., supported by Mr. Ruskin, the celebrated Fine Art critic, Sir F. Tyrell, Mr. Cole, Mr. Digby Wyatt, Mr. Scott, and other gentlemen connected with the arts. On the table before the Chairman were the various successful works, consisting of some very fine carvings in wood, two very chaste capitals carved in stone, and several smaller objects. The room was crowded to an unpleasant degree.

The Chairman said that it was with much pleasure he occupied the position he held that evening, as—although he had had the honour of being elected to the chair before, it had not been on so gratifying an occasion as the present—that of rewarding the exertions of the authors of such works as were before him. He said he had always taken a lively interest in the doings of the Society, having seen that its object was the praiseworthy one of elevating that profession of which he had the honour to be a member; and he considered the benefit to be derived from the success of the Museum, both to the employer and the employed, would be very great. There was no doubt in his mind, that the collecting of specimens of art together, such as they had before them in these rooms, for the study of the artisan, was most beneficial to him in the pursuit of his profession; he had in these examples the matured thoughts of the greatest geniuses in architectural art—they were the *chef-d'œuvres* of the various periods of art, both in this country and on the Continent; and it



VIEW OF THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, IN THE GRAY'S INN ROAD, SHOWING THE NEW SUSSEX WING

was now for the student and the workman to examine these, and from the refining influence produced on the mind by their contemplation, combined with a careful study of nature, and by the application of her many beauties and unfailing resources to the purpose of architectural decoration, endeavour to achieve what he was in hopes of living to witness, namely, a particular style for their own particular age, and that, as well as the thirteenth and sixteenth, we should also be able to boast of the style of the nineteenth century. The Professor made some further remarks, all tending in an eminent degree to urge the student to exertions, and then proceeded to distribute the prizes, in the shape of cheques, to the amount of from £2 to £10 each.

The Secretary afterwards read some statistical accounts of the society, and Mr. Ruskin next addressed the meeting in a lengthy speech of much power of language, showing how a well-educated mind would give force and character to a design, likening it to "the human hand in health, the delicate chiseling out of the roughest material, or the exquisite touch of

the painter's brush." Mr. Ruskin then stated his intention of giving £10 toward a memorial to the memory of the fallen heroes in the Crimea, which the Society intend having executed from a design for which they invite competition.

A workman here addressed the Chairman from the body of the room, to complain that they were confined by their tutors and employers to the study of these specimens of antiquity. He wanted to know why they should not be allowed to fashion nature after their own manner?—why they should be always told to go to this style and to that style?—why they should be sent back into the Dark Ages?—and so on. He then made some allusion to the aristocracy, and altogether presented the appearance of a discontented man, coming, as he did, armed with a large foolscap sheet of complaints, from which he read.

Mr. Digby Wyatt took upon him to reply to the discontented student; and said that he would be only too glad to welcome that man who would start a fresh style. There were numbers who were up to a certain line;

but it was the man who just stepped beyond that line that was the genius. That was the man the age was looking for. Mr. Digby Wyatt did not intimate that he thought the age had found the right individual in our discontented friend.

After speeches from Mr. Hope and Mr. Scott, the meeting terminated at ten o'clock, with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, who, in accordance with a wish he had expressed during the evening, was unanimously elected a member of the society.

The company stopped some time to examine the contents of the Museum, which consisted of six rooms filled with casts from select examples of art, carvings in wood and stone, cast-iron work, and some very beautiful casts in plaster of natural foliage, together with supplementary details connected with architecture, such as mouldings, encaustic tiles, mural paintings, and indeed, almost every object of fine art connected with the profession. The Museum thus forms an admirable school for the practical study of architectural art and ornament.



DIGBY WYATT.

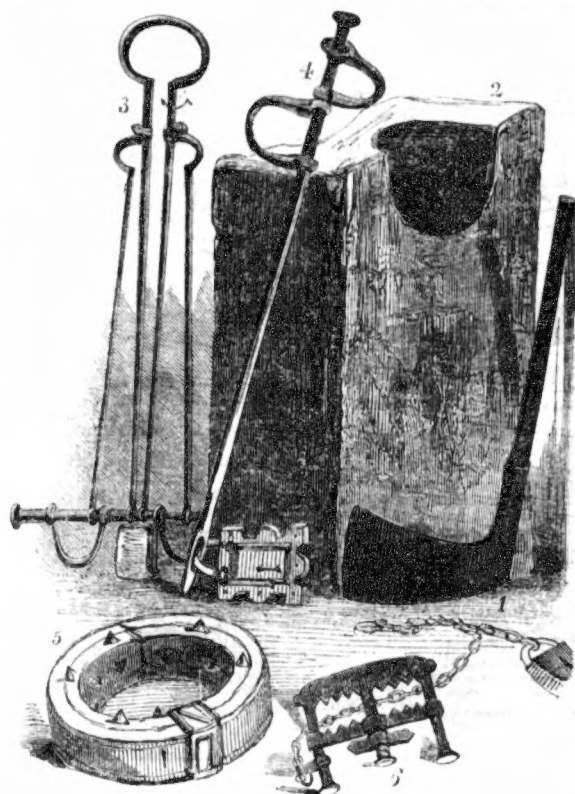
JOHN RUSKIN.

PROFESSOR COCKERELL.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE ARCHITECTURAL MUSEUM, CANNON ROW, APRIL 7TH, 1856.

A CORNER FOR THE CURIOUS.—NO. 5.
INSTRUMENTS OF PUNISHMENT AND TORTURE IN THE
TOWER OF LONDON.

THERE are few things among the valuable collection of antiquities preserved in the Tower of London, which excite so much interest as the grim-looking objects forming the group figured in the accompanying engraving. With the executioner's axe, that long list of unfortunates who have met their fate within the walls of the Tower or on Tower Hill, since the time of Henry VIII., have been beheaded. Among them may be enumerated Queen Anne Boleyn, whom Henry first presented to his people as their



1. THE EXECUTIONER'S AXE. 2. THE BLOCK ON WHICH LORDS BALMORINO, LOVAT, ETC., WERE BEHEADED. 3. THE SCAVENGER'S DAUGHTER. 4. SPANISH BILBOES. 5. MASSIVE IRON COLLAR FOR THE NECK. 6. THUMB-SCREW.

Queen while standing with her on the Tower Stairs, after she had been conveyed thither from Greenwich with every possible pomp. Crowds of gilded barges, with gay banners waving at their sterns, then lined the stream. The noblest of the land were in the young Queen's train or were waiting to receive her. Loud rounds of cannon, and soft, merry strains, announced her arrival; and the burly King stepped forward to kiss her in the sight of the assembled multitude. On the same day, three short

years afterwards, she was led forth to execution within the Tower walls. The good Sir Thomas More and the chivalrous Earl of Surrey, Lady Jane Grey and her young husband, the gallant Raleigh, and a host of others, also perished by that sad symbol of the executioner's office.

The block is said to be of less ancient date, but is known to have been used at the execution of three Scotch lords—the unfortunate adherents of the Pretender—a little more than a century ago. On the top part of the block, there are three distinct cuts, two of them very deep and parallel, and the other at an angle and less effective.

The horrible instrument of torture called the "Scavenger's Daughter," was, in the "good old days," used as a means of extorting confession. The head of the culprit was passed through the circular hole at the top, and the arms through those below. The whole of this part of the machine opens in somewhat the same manner as a pair of tongs, the upper part being fixed round the neck and arms, and the semi-circular irons placed on the legs. The body was then bent, and a strong iron bar was passed through the irons connected with the head and arms, and those in which the legs were placed. The culprit would then, as one of the "Beefeaters" who attends on visitors makes a point of observing, "be doubled up into very small compass, and made exceedingly uncomfortable."

The Bilboes need little explanation, being only a strong rod of iron, with a knob at one end, on which are two moveable hoops, for the purpose of holding the legs; these being fixed, and a heavy iron padlock put on the proper part—the wearer was said to be in *Bilboes*. Instruments of this description were much used on board of ship for the purpose of securing prisoners of war.

The Iron Collar is a persuader of a formidable description, for it weighs upwards of 14lbs., and is so made that it can be fixed on the neck and then locked. Such a necklace would, we think, be sufficiently inconvenient; but it is rendered more uncomfortable by sundry prickles of iron knowingly placed.

The Thumb-screw, also preserved in the Tower, is a characteristic example of a species of torture, at one time much resorted to. The engraved example has been constructed so as to press both thumbs; nevertheless, it is a convenient little instrument, which might be easily carried about in the pocket. We have met with varieties of the thumb-screw in several collections—some for the accommodation of one thumb only. In the Museum of the Royal Antiquarian Society of Scotland there are some thumb-screws which are said to have been used amongst the Covenanters.

Times have changed for the better since the "Scavenger's Daughter," and the other matters represented, were amongst the mildest of the methods used for the purposes of punishment and intimidation. The stocks, the public whipping-posts, boilings and burnings in Smithfield and elsewhere, the exhibition of dead men's heads over gateways, the boot, the rack, the pillory, the practice of making men eat their own books in Cheapside, drawing on hurdles to the place of execution, and then hanging, drawing and quartering, chopping off hands and ears, and other revolting punishments, have gone out of use, and it is gratifying to know that we are all the better for it.



FLORAL DECORATION OF A WINDOW BALCONY—EXTERIOR VIEW.
(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XIV.

WHAT a bustling week we have had—three unusual gatherings of members, and three defeats of the Government! It was always predicted, that on the return of peace a host of social questions would arise which had been kept down by the war. "The winter of our discontent is now



INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—THE RUSH TO A DIVISION.

made glorious summer;" but we question whether the summer will be a very pleasant one for the Government. To use the expression of an Irish member, "If the Ministry don't move on, it will never be able to stand."

THE FIRST DEFEAT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Cowan has had the honour of beating the Government for the first time this session. The war is over; and on the motion for going into Supply, Mr. Cowan presented his little bill. Lord Palmerston refused to pay it; and, on a division, he was told by the House peremptorily that he must. Our cunning "whip," Mr. Hayter, was for once mistaken—was wrong in his calculations—and had evidently misled the Noble Lord. The question was, whether soldiers should any longer be quartered in Scotland upon private families. It is really surprising that a liberal Government should refuse to such faithful allies as the Scotch Liberals a remedy for so patent and intolerable a grievance.

THE SECOND DEFEAT.

"Misfortunes never come single!" Only a night or two afterwards the Government sustained another defeat. It was on the appointment of a committee on Shipping Dues. The question was, whether Mr. Scott or Lord Naas should be on the committee. Government said Scott—the Opposition Naas; and Government was again beaten. The "Whips," not expecting a division, had permitted their men to go away—Hayter was again caught napping. The Opposition was delighted with this second victory. "Who knows? perhaps we may yet gain office before the Session closes. 'Is it a place I see before me? Come, let me clutch thee!'" These, defeats, however, in themselves are unimportant. It must be a defeat on some great national measure that can overthrow the Palmerston Ministry; and at present we see no such defeat looming in the immediate future.

EXCITING DIVISION—EIGHT SHUT OUT.

On Wednesday we had a great rush of Members. Faces were seen in the House that have not appeared there before this Session. It was a religious question; and when such a question is before the House, we always have a strong gathering. No less than 425 Members came up to vote upon the off-debated point, whether the Jews shall be admitted to Parliament. The majority in favour was thirty-five. This will hardly save the bill in the Lords; and therefore the "Christian character" of the House is safe from the taint of Judaism, probably for another year. The division on the motion was very exciting. On Wednesday the House adjourned at six; and at a quarter to six, it signifies not who is present or what may be the state of the business, the inexorable Speaker rises, and peremptorily stops the debate, and proceeds to the next order, so that the notices on the paper may be gone through before the clock strikes. During the whole of the morning it was generally believed that the time would be talked out—or if not, that the division would not take place until half-past five. Many of the Members, therefore, had gone away; and a still larger number had scattered themselves about the building, confident that they were safe until 5:30. Quite unexpectedly, however, the division was announced at 5:10; and when the bells rang, there was an exciting race from all parts of the building. "Division!" shouts the doorkeeper: "Strangers withdraw! Strangers withdraw!" shout the policemen. In a twinkling the outer lobby is emptied, and every avenue to the House also, that the Members may have a clear course. Those who are coming from the library and refreshment rooms may take it leisurely; but the committee-rooms up stairs are a long way off—and whether the Members there will be in time is doubtful. Here they come! Run! run! The young ones will be in time, but the old ones and the corpulent scarcely. Hark! there is the Speaker's voice: "Order! order!" Bang goes the door. "Locked!" shouts the doorkeeper. And eight Honourable Members stand panting and blowing like grumpuses on the wrong side. The Sergeant-at-Arms is as inexorable as St. Peter. When once the door is shut, there is no remedy but to write to the "Times," that the Members for So-and-So were accidentally locked out.

A MEMBER "IN THE WRONG BOX."

One would think that it required very little intelligence and attention to know which lobby to go into, but it sometimes occurs that a Member gets into the wrong one. This happened on this occasion. As usual, the Speaker put the question; and said "Ayes to the right, 'Noes to the left." But somehow or other, Mr. Martin, the Member for Rochester, found himself in the "wrong box," and did not discover his mistake until he looked round and saw that he was surrounded by Tories. When he came to the division clerk he refused to vote, and the tellers had to report him to the House. The Speaker then ordered him to be brought to the table. "Did the Hon. Member hear the question put?" "Yes," was the reply. "Then the Hon. Member's vote must be recorded against the Bill," said the Member who led back amidst the laughter of the House. There was some excuse, perhaps, for Mr. Martin. A petition against his return had just been voted "frivolous and vexatious," and he had probably not got over the excitement caused by this event.

SIR JAMES GRAHAM TURNED VOLUNTARY.

The next great gathering was on the occasion of the debate on the Education Resolutions, moved by Lord John Russell. In this division there were 418 Members, and again Ministers were defeated; at least Lord John was defeated, and the Government supported the Noble Lord. This, however, is confessedly one of those questions on which even the staunchest members of the Government party hold very different views; so that the defeat is not of much consequence to the Ministry. Though the Government professed to support the first resolution, the support was very languid. There was no Government "Whip" for it; but there was a marked feature in the discussion which must not be passed over. Sir James Graham gave in his adherence to the voluntary system. Yes, it is even so! The shifty old statesman, who has been preying nearly everything in his day, has arrived there. "What next, and next," will be his career? Of course it is impossible to foretell. The man who, in 1843, threw the Dissenters into convulsions by attempting to place education in the hands of the clergy, and now advocates the voluntary principle, must be travelling in an orbit far too eccentric to be calculated. He attributes his conversion to two tracts. One by Mr. Edward Baines, of Leeds, and the other by a Rev. Mr. Unwin, a Dissenting Minister. Want a trophy for these gentlemen! Nor does the Right Hon. Baronet mean to be a quiet convert. The new principles which he has adopted he evidently intends zealously to preach. Indeed he has preached them, for the House of Commons never heard so able and so masterly an exposition of the voluntary principle as it heard from the lips of Sir James Graham on the Education Debate. The old Voluntaries around him, Hildfield, Miall, &c. &c., were in ecstasies. They shouted and laughed, and laughed and shouted, till they were fairly exhausted. Since Saul appeared "amongst the prophets," no conversion has excited the surprise that this has. What a stimulus it will give to tract distributing! *Nil desperandum* will be the motto now. Who knows? Perhaps even Harry of Exeter may be converted, and, throwing off his mitre and apron, join the "Anti-State Church Association."

AND GLADSTONE TOO!

Yes! for not only did the Right Hon. Gentleman cheer his Right Hon. Friend Sir James—whilst the latter was showing what Voluntarism had done for the education of the people—but he (Mr. Gladstone) himself, in one of the most eloquent and powerful speeches that we have ever heard in the House, denounced State Education as an unwarrantable interference with the liberty, and destructive to the manly character, of the people. The scene in the House, whilst all this was going on, was exceedingly rich. The ecstasies of the Dissenters—the puzzled looks of the old Tories and the doctrinaire Whigs—the self-complacency of the dissenting ministers under the gallery, whilst listening to their own arguments, reproduced with all the power of a practised speaker like Graham, or clothed in the eloquent language of Gladstone, was a scene which we wish we could engrave, and place before our readers.

GRAND NAVAL REVIEW.

On the 23d the House will go down to Southampton by a special train to leave Waterloo Station at 6:50 A.M. Return Tickets may be had at the station. At Southampton the Government steamer will be provided. A notice to this effect was hung up in the lobby. "Return tickets!" said an Irish Member—"Ah, sure! but how are we to go down?"

WINDOW GARDENING, AND THE CULTIVATION OF PLANTS IN ROOMS—NO. 6.

In our last article we described the floral decorations of a balcony as seen from the window of the apartment. In the present illustration the external effect of a balcony is shown, and the disposition of the receptacles for flowers is somewhat different. The success of floriculture in such a situation will, after every care on the part of the cultivator, depend much on the particular aspect of the building. In a north or north-eastern aspect, little can be done on account of the insufficiency of sun and light. In a nearly due southern aspect, the continued heat of the sun during a great part of the day, which is much increased by the reflected heat from the house itself, causes all moisture to evaporate so rapidly, that unless water be very frequently supplied, and its too rapid evaporation be prevented by some artificial shade, in the form of an awning, or some other contrivance of a similar description, the culture of flowers in a balcony, in such an aspect, would, during the summer months, be attended with doubtful success. The south-eastern and south-western aspects are therefore the most desirable, to the latter we should give the preference, as being protected from the east wind, which in our climate is often very injurious to vegetation, even to indigenous plants strongly rooted in their native soil, while to delicate exotics cultivated in the peculiarly exposed situation of an elevated balcony, the effect is often fatal, and these tender stems and foliage wither and die after the lashing of a fierce wind from the eastern quarter.

The south-west aspect is therefore to be preferred for such a purpose; but by a judicious selection of plants, to be referred to hereafter, tolerable success may be attained even with a due northern aspect, for there are a few, not altogether unattractive plants, that shun rather than seek the direct rays of the sun.

We have, however, imagined the balcony represented in the accompanying illustration to possess the advantages of our favourite aspect, and, therefore, speak of it accordingly. It will be seen that the side boxes, in the form of steps, are so arranged as to give an artificial elevation to the plants at the sides—an arrangement which we have always found productive of a pleasing effect, as the extreme artificial flatness of the slab or stone forming the floor of the balcony is thus got rid of, and an agreeable variety of elevation secured to the different groups of plants. At this season, we have supposed that magnolias and nemophila insignis are in a forward state, having been sown while the crocuses were still in full bloom, but which are now cut down or removed. We have imagined the effect of these combined flowers, varied by the introduction of a few plants of German ten-week stock, which, with due preparation, ought to have been in readiness for the purpose; but if such preparations have been neglected, it will be well to save time and purchase a dozen forward plants, which may cost about a shilling. In the upper boxes we have imagined a couple of nice, healthy anemones, kept in large pots in the garden for such purposes, to be succeeded about this time, or a little later, by two fine rhododendrons, of some of the new hardy varieties. A few of these plants should be kept in pots for this purpose, plunged in the ground in the open garden; and when the flower-buds are well swollen, and show good promise, they should be removed to the situation indicated. But they must be sunk in the soil of the boxes, as shown, for the evaporation would be too rapid. Were the surface of the pots suddenly exposed, the consequence would be that the plants would suffer, and, in all probability, the buds would fall, or, at any rate, expand very unkindly. In the event of wishing to place such plants in a detached situation, they should be disposed within a larger pot, and the interstice between the two pots filled with damp moss, by which means the mischief of rapid evaporation would be, at all events, to a great extent prevented.

The monotony of the bare walls at the back of the balcony may be very agreeably varied by the addition of wire or wood trellis, as shown in the engraving; and it should be stated that most climbing plants appear to prefer a wooden support to one formed of metal, and that they consequently cling more freely to a wooden trellis than to a wire one. No plants can be more pleasing for the purpose of clothing a trellis of this description, than *tropeolum canariensis* and the common major convolvulus. But if our readers do not know the beautiful clematis corulea, and the common passion-flower, *passiflora corulea*, we advise them to plant one at the foot of each of the trellises designed. Each plant would cost about 1s. 6d., and plants at this price would flower this season, and astonish by their great beauty all who are unacquainted with them. But seeds or young plants of *tropeolum canariensis* should be placed at the side of the same receptacle, to climb to the upper part of the trellis, as the two plants named would not advance much in height during the first season. Care must be taken, however, that these more vigorously growing plants do not encroach upon the space allotted to the clematis or the passion-flower, as their growth and flowering would be injured thereby.

It will be observed that, in our design, a young lady is busy with a watering-can, administering the daily supply of moisture to her balcony-garden, without which plants in such a situation would soon exhibit symptoms of distress in the form of yellow leaves and falling buds. At the same time, great attention must be paid to the drainage of all the receptacles in which plants are placed; for if water be allowed to stagnate about the roots of plants, finding no means of escape, its presence becomes almost as injurious as its absence.

In our next article we shall, at the request of a correspondent from Glasgow and others, treat of glass cases as an ornamental and interesting method of growing flowers in sitting apartments, accompanying our remarks with several original designs for the structure of such cases after more decorative forms than those commonly in use.

Our Jersey correspondent is informed that Messrs. Minion, and Messrs. Copeland, of Stoke-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, are manufacturers of terra-cotta flower-vases.

THE AUSTRIANS IN PARMA.—During the last few days, dozens of persons, arrested for supposed political opinions, have been sent off to Mantua. Military law is applied with the utmost severity. The Austrians say that there will be no long trials—"The guilty will be shot, and the innocent set at liberty." The whole male population wearing beards has been shaved by authority! It is almost impossible either to receive communications or to send letters out of the town. If, therefore, this reaches you, you may probably receive no further communications. It seems to be the object of the Austrian soldiery to create terror, as the arrests are accompanied with great brutality. Several applications have been made by wives, who have ventured to demand what officers their husbands have committed, but they get no reply. The authorities of the Government are even looked upon with suspicion, and I think it will end by every responsible office being held by an Austrian. —LETTER FROM PARMA (APRIL 7.)

THE RAILWAY FORGERIES.—At the Head Police Office, in Dublin, on Monday, Mr. James M. Knighting was brought up, charged with having committed another forgery of a transfer of railway shares. It appeared that Mr. Knighting, in June last, called at the office of Mr. Robert Corbett, stockbroker, and stated that Mr. Henry M. Jones, of Hampstead, was anxious to dispose of 156 preference shares in the Great Southern and Western Railway, and that, inasmuch as his residence was at some periods uncertain, he wished to appoint Mr. John J. Ryan, of the Lunacy Office, as his agent. This was accordingly done. Afterwards the shares were sold by Mr. Corbett, and a sum amounting in the whole to nearly £2,960, was paid to Mr. Ryan in four checks—one on the Bank of Ireland, and three on another firm. Mr. Jones now attended, and deposed that he had never signed the transfer, and that he was now the proprietor of the shares originally allotted to him in the Great Southern and Western Railway. After a lengthened investigation, the prisoner was committed for trial on two charges; but it is feared that forgeries to a far greater extent will yet be discovered.

TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF VAUXHALL RAILWAY STATION.—The Vauxhall Railway Station was totally destroyed by fire last Sunday evening. At a quarter past eight o'clock, the ordinary business of the station was proceeding, and passengers were in the act of booking themselves for the suburban down trains, when a sudden alarm of fire arose, and, at the same instant, it was discovered that a small ante-room adjoining the booking-office, and used by the clerk in charge, was in flames. In a very few moments the fire had extended to the booking-office itself; and so remarkably rapid was its progress, that the officials present were compelled to make a hasty retreat. From the booking-office the fire spread rapidly to the platform, and within five minutes after the outbreak, the flames had nearly encircled the station on the down side. A Twickenham train passed through after the fire broke out, and was followed by a Windsor train, which actually stopped to set down passengers while the station was in flames, the rapidity of the fire having prevented the officials from signalling all trains to stop. The origin of the fire is thought to have been occasioned by the gas. The injury was confined to the loss of property belonging to the company.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY OF A "MAN-WOMAN" IN BIRMINGHAM.—In the daily papers we find the following particulars respecting this extraordinary case. On Friday last week, an application was made before the Magistrate sitting in the Police Court, Birmingham. Mr. James Corder, clerk to the Board of Guardians, attended and stated that, in consequence of a communication made to him by Inspector Glossop, of the detective force, he directed Mr. Sweeney, one of the relieving officers of the parish, to visit the house of Richard Kennedy, a theatrical ornament maker, No. 53, Lovelock Street, as it had been rumored that his daughter Rebecca, a woman 30 years of age, had been confined in a room as a lunatic for a long series of years. On visiting the house, Mr. Sweeney had considerable difficulty in obtaining access to the room, in an upper story, where it was understood the alleged lunatic was confined. There was only one window in the apartment, which had been totally blocked up, so that no light was permitted to enter. An aperture was, however, made, and a scene of a very inclining nature presented itself. In one of the corners of the room, on a bed of straw, lay a person in a perfect state of nudity, with skin grimed with filth and dirt, and of such hideous appearance, that it had little resemblance to a human being. The filthy condition of the apartment and the person was indescribable. Singularly enough, there were traces of a beard and whiskers upon the face, but in the state in which the unfortunate creature was at the time little notice was taken of the circumstance. It appeared Mr. Corder continued that this person had been confined for fourteen years and during the whole of that long period had never been permitted to see the light of day. Orders for the removal of the unfortunate person were immediately given, and she was conveyed to the workhouse. This was on Thursday. Mr. Fernie, the resident medical officer, examined the poor creature, with a view to discover whether there were any bruises on her body, but failed to find any marks of violence. The truth, however, was ascertained, that the unfortunate person was of extraordinary malformation, partaking however, more of the female than the male. Several questions were put to her, which she answered much more rationally than might, under the circumstances, have been expected. None of her statements, however, gave a clue to the reasons for her confinement, although these can very readily be supposed. The medical officer declined at present to certify that she was of unsound mind. It was under these circumstances, and by the direction of the Board of Guardians, that Mr. Corder applied for a summons against Kennedy and his wife. The offence with which they would be charged would be, as assaulting and neglecting to provide for Rebecca, their offspring, sufficient food, clothing, and nourishment, she being at their instance kept in a state of durance. Mr. Corder said that he had written to the Commissioners of Lunacy, putting them in possession of the circumstances he had narrated.

The Bench directed that a summons should issue against the parents, and that the case should be heard on Friday next.

A very marked improvement has taken place in the unfortunate creature's appearance since her removal to the workhouse. The long strong beard, luxuriant whiskers and moustache, have been removed from her face, which, however, has little feminine about it. She is very sensitive, although she mixes freely with the other paupers, talks rationally, in a gruff, masculine voice, and eats heartily.

THE RECAPTURE OF A CONVICT.—Henry Mitchell, aged 23, a short, thickset, powerful looking fellow, described on the police sheet as a bricklayer, of No. 4, Brill Row, Somers Town, was placed at the bar on remand, at the Clerkenwell police court, on Monday, charged with being an escaped convict and illegally at large before the expiration of his term of imprisonment.

It appears that he and another convict, named Simpson, made their escape from the New Model Prison, Holloway, on the night of the 19th of March, and walked as far as Camberwell, passing several of the Metropolitan police in their way, owing to the uniform worn in the different prisons not being known.

The evidence taken on this occasion was to the effect, that the prisoner was seen safe by Edward Edwards, one of the warders, at twenty minutes to nine, on the night of the 19th of March; and Sergeant Wheeler, of the detective force, stated, that on the night of the 5th of this month, he went to No. 4, Brill Row, Somers Town, and in a room on the first-floor back, he apprehended the prisoner, telling him for what he took him. When the prisoner was being handcuffed he said, "I will not resist, but if you beat me you would have found your mistake out." In justice to the landlord of the house he wished to state that he was not in any way connected with the prisoner, and that he lent the police every assistance in effecting the capture.

Sergeant Payne proved taking the prisoner and his companion into custody for the offence for which they were undergoing punishment at the time of their escape.

Mr. Hosking, the governor of the New Model Prison, had in court the copy-book in which the prisoner had been taught, from which it appeared that he had been engaged in writing a poem, commencing, "Farewell, my friend, adieu," but he refused to allow any one to look at it.

The prisoner, when asked if he had anything to say in his defence, replied, that understanding one of the officers had been discharged or suspended, he wished to clear the whole of the officers, and to state that they had nothing whatever to do with their escape. They were perfectly innocent.

The Magistrate committed the prisoner to Newgate for trial.

THE MURDER OF MISS HINDS.—The trial of James Murphy, one of the men charged with the murder of Miss Hinds, was brought to a conclusion on Thursday last week, at the Assize Special Commission. Witnesses were produced for the prisoner to controvert the evidence of the approver, and to show that he had invited them to join him in trying to gain the reward, and that he proposed to swear against two other men instead of those whom he ultimately fixed on. The jury, after a consultation of two hours, returned a verdict of Guilty.

THE UXBIDGE MURDERS—SENTENCE OF DEATH.—At the Central Criminal Court last week, Elizabeth Anne Harris, aged 25, a good-looking young woman, with an infant, apparently about three months old, in her arms, was indicted for the wilful murder of two of her illegitimate children by throwing them into the canal near Uxbridge. After the examination of various witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of guilty; and sentence of death was passed accordingly, at the conclusion of which the prisoner shrieked, "I am innocent—I am innocent! Mercy—mercy!" The scene was a most painful one, and everybody in court appeared much affected. It is understood that a petition for the commutation of the sentence is in the course of preparation.

THE ISLINGTON MURDER.—At the Central Criminal Court, on April 19, Celestina Sommer, 26, was indicted for the wilful murder of her child, Celestina Christmas. The prisoner, although stated to be twenty-six years old, did not present anything of a womanly appearance. She is very short in stature, and looks more like a young girl than a married woman. The unhappy child who was the subject of inquiry, was more than ten years old, so that it would appear that the prisoner was not more than fifteen years old at the time it was brought into the world. The most important evidence adduced on the trial was that of the servant girl who witnessed the diabolical act perpetrated by the prisoner, the particulars of which were given in a previous Number. At the close of the evidence, the jury almost immediately returned a verdict of Guilty. The sentence of death was accordingly passed in the usual manner. The wretched woman appeared to be suffering most intense agony, and seemed at times overwhelmed with grief. Since the trial, she has stated she expects to be sent to a lunatic asylum, and that after she has been confined there a few months, she will be set at liberty. Whether or not this belief is real or assumed cannot, of course, be positively ascertained; but the authorities of the prison, as well as the medical officer, seem to be of opinion there is no ground for supposing that her mind is in any way deranged. The prisoner appears to have received a good education, and it is stated that she is respectably connected.

THE TRIAL OF WILLIAM PALMER.—On Saturday, the new act to empower the Court of Queen's Bench to order certain offenders to be tried at the Central Criminal Court, came into force. It received the royal assent on Friday. There are twenty-four sections in the new law, under which William Palmer, now in Stafford Jail, will be removed to Newgate. The indictment in this case will be transmitted to the Central Criminal Court, and at the commencement of term the Court of Queen's Bench will probably make an order in reference to this particular case to be tried at the Central Criminal Court, and when any such order is made, the prisoner is forthwith to be removed to London. Rules are to be made to effect the purposes of the act. Among the provisions is one, that any person convicted, may be sentenced to be punished, either in the county where the offence was committed, or within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court.

SUPPOSED POISONING OF THREE CHILDREN NEAR NEWCASTLE.—On Monday, an inquest was held at Longbenton, near Newcastle, before the Coroner for South Northumberland, on the bodies of Robert Wood, Margaret Weston, and —Humble, three children of tender years. It appears that Elizabeth Short, the wife of a labourer, keeps a shop at a colliery village, in the neighbourhood of Longbenton, and, among other things, sells a few medicines. For several weeks, a cutaneous disease, called "the water jogs," has existed amongst the children of the village, and as the parents considered sulphur a useful medicine in such cases, Mrs. Short has had a great many applications for it. The article which she supplied, however, has invariably produced vomiting and purging, and three children have died. Two of the bodies have been disinterred, and examined. In both cases, the lungs and stomach were healthy, and there were no marks of violence externally. The contents of the stomachs of the deceased children will be analysed by Dr. Richardson, of Newcastle, and in the mean time the inquest has been adjourned for a fortnight.

THE CLOCKS AT THE POST-OFFICE.—Measures are in progress under the direction of the Astronomer Royal for regulating the clocks at the Post-office in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and at the Branch Office in Lombard Street, by means of telegraphic communication with the Observatory at Greenwich. The arrangements to be completed by the day appointed for the celebration of her Majesty's birthday.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

Owing to the large decrease in the stock of bullion in the Bank of England, as shown in the last return, and to the Bank of France, the Bank of England has been very much pressed for money, the market has been very tight, and the rate of interest has been raised to 5 per cent. It must be understood that a short time ago the rate of interest was 4 per cent. The Turkish loan was for some time retained in this market, but it has been sold by our Government in the purchase of arms and warlike stores, on account of the operations of Turkey. As the war is now over, and as the Government is in a most unfavourable condition, the Turkish loan is now suspended here to Turkey, becoming a security for the export of nearly half a million in gold to France. We believe that about £1,000,000 yet remains unsold. But when we consider the improved position of the Bank of France as regards its metallic resources, the demand for gold, both from Australia and the United States, we see no just reason why consols should go down. A large export of £400,000 or £500,000 in gold. No doubt there will be a decline in the rate of discount; but there is no prospect of a decline in the rate.

The 3 per cent. consols have been done at 93 to 93½ for money, and 93½ to 94; the reduced, 91½ to 92; and the new 90 to 91; Bank stock, 213½ to 214½; India stock, 229, long annuities, 1885, 16½; exchequer bills, 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d.; exchequer bonds, 94½ to 95½.

Most foreign bonds have been in very moderate request, and the quotations in prices have not been extensive. London five per cent. 104½; Mexican three per cent. 104½; American five per cent. 95½; Turkish five per cent. 104½; the four per cent. 103½; Austrian five per cent. 104½; French rentes, four and a half per cent. 92½; and the three per cent. 95½.

There has been a good business done in railway shares. Midland has realised 27½; Colindale 64½; Eastern Counties 64½; Great Western, 64½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 64½; London and Blackwall, 71; London and Brighton, 71; London and South Western, 71; Midland, 71; North British, 71; North Staffordshire, 11½; South Eastern, 71; West Cornwall, 7.

Bank shares have sold slowly. London Chartered Bank of Australia, 17½; London and County, 34½; London and Westminster, 47½; Union of Australia, 71½; Union of London, 27½; Western Bank of London, 27.

In miscellaneous securities, very few transactions have been done. Canada Company's Bonds have realised 141; Government 6 per cent. 110; Crystal Palace, 22; London and Oriental Steam, 65½ to 66; Royal Mail 65½; Van Dieman's Land, 16.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

COGN EXCHANGE.—Only moderate supplies of English wheat have been received up to our own market this week, and the demand by land carriage. The demand, however, for exports has ruled exceedingly heavy, at a decline in the quotations of from 3s. to 4s. per quarter. Foreign wheat, in imports of which have not been extensive, has moved off freely, at 2s. to 3s. per quarter less money. Floating cargoes have been neglected. The few supplies of barley in the market have sold briskly; and malting qualities have improved in value 1s. per quarter. Malt has realised full quotations; but oats, with the exception of the finest parcels, have given way 6d. to 1s. per quarter. Beans have fallen 1s.; but the value of peas has been supported. The flour trade has ruled heavy; and country marks have receded 1s. to 2s. per sack.

GRAIN EXCHANGE.—Essex and Kent White Wheat, 50s. to 51s.; do, Red, 54s. to 55s.; Malting Barley, 38s. to 40s.; Peas, 32s. to 34s.; Grinding do, 32s. to 35s.; Malt, 2s. to 2½s.; Rye, 44s. to 45s.; Feed Oats, 21s. to 22s.; Potatoes, 2s. to 3s.; Tuck Beans, 31s. to 34s.; Pigeons, 37s. to 43s.; White Peas, 40s. to 44s.; Maple, 32s. to 35s.; Gray, 32s. to 35s. per quarter. Town made Flour, 65s. to 65½s.; Town Household, 62s. to 65s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 42s. to 49s. per 200 lbs.

CATTLE.—The supplies of beasts having fallen off, the demand for all kinds has ruled brisk, at an advance in the quotations of from 2d. to 4d. per 8 lbs. Sheep—the arrivals of which have been limited—have moved off briskly, at 2d. to 4d. per 8 lbs. more money. Lambs have commanded the attention, and prices have had an upward tendency. The real trade has ruled tolerably firm, at full quotations; but pigs have met a dull sale, at barely late rates. Beef, from 3s. 2d. to 4s. 8d.; mutton, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 4d.; lamb, 4s. 4d. to 7s. 4d.; veal, 4s. 2d. to 5s. 8d.; pork, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 8d. per 5 lbs. to the cwt.

NEWCASTLE AND LEADENHALL.—Very moderate supplies of meat are on sale in these markets, and the trade generally is steady, as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 10d. to 3s. 2d.; mutton, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 4d.; lamb, 5s. 8d. to 6s. 8d.; veal, 5s. 10d. to 6s. 4d.; pork, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 8d. per 5 lbs. by the cwt. Fish.—Our market is still heavy, but we have no actual decline to notice in prices. Conger, 9d. to 2s. 6d.; Ning Yung and Oolong, 10d. to 1s. 9d.; Sole, 9d. to 2s. 8d.; Flounder, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 6d.; Capelin, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Scallops, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Orange Peas, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 9d.; Twink, 8d. to 1s. 2d.; Hysan Skin, 7d. to 1s.; Hysan, 1s. 5d. to 2s. 9d.; Young Hysan, 9d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s. 9d.; Corned, 1s. to 3s. 6d.; Assam, 1s. to 4s. 4d. per lb.

STEW.—There has been much less activity in the demand for all raw sugars, since our last report, and the quotations have given way from 6d. to 1s. per cwt. Floating cargoes are rather dull; but refined goods continue firm, at 12s. 6d. to 15s. per cwt.

NUSSERS.—This market is not quite so active as of late, yet West India qualities command 18s. to 19s. per cwt., with only limited supplies on offer.

COTTON.—We have a very slow sale for all kinds, and, in some instances, importers have been compelled to submit to a reduction in the quotations of 1s. per cwt. Good ordinary Ceylon, 52s. per cwt.

CHEESE.—The demand is heavy, and prices have given way 2s. to 3s. per cwt. Red Trinidad, 43s. to 46s.; grey, 38s. to 42s.; Gouda, 36s. to 42s.; St. Vincent, 35s. to 38s.; Parm, 40s. to 50s. per cwt.

FRUIT.—Our market generally is firm, at fully last week's quotations. The supplies of fruit on offer are by no means extensive.

BUTTER.—Great heaviness prevails in the demand for this article, and prices have given way from 6d. to 9d. per cwt. The stock in warehouse is very large, and immense quantities are still on passage from India.

SALT.—Several transactions have taken place in fine salts, at 36s. to 37s. per cwt.; and the demand generally is steady.

EXTRACTS.—Fine qualities of butter are scarce, and in good request, at fully late rates. Inferior kinds, however, move off slowly, at barely stationary prices. The bacon market is steady, but hams are considerably lower in price. Barley provisions are drooping.

METALS.—The iron market is very firm, and prices are well supported. Rails, at the works, are selling at 48 to 48½s.; and Staffordshire, 49 to 50s. to 51½s. per ton. This is active request. Banca, 132s. 6d. to 133s.; Straits 133s. to 134s.; British, 133s. to 134s.; and refined, 137s. to 138s. Tin plates are the turn dealer. I. C. Coke, 30s. 6d. to 31s.; I. X. do, 30s. 6d. to 31s.; I. C. Charcoal, 30s. 6d. to 31s.; I. X. do, 42s. 6d. to 43s. per cwt. Lead is very firm. British pig, 42s. 10s. to 43s.; Spanish, 42s. to 43s. 10s. per ton. Spelter, on the spot, 42s. 5s. to 43s. 6s. per ton.

SPICES.—The supply of rice is still very large, and the demand is falling off. Proof Leicards, 2s. 1d. to 2s. 2d.; East India, 1s. 11d. to 2s. per gallon. Foreign, proof 1s. 10d. per cwt. over, has realised 1s. 10d. to 2s. 3d. The bread market is inactive, but without leading to any material change in the quotations. Sales of cognac, 17s. under proof, 9s. 10d.; 22s. do, 4s. 4d.; raw spirit, 10s. 7d.; and Geneva, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 3d. per gallon.

WOOL.—Large supplies have lately arrived from our Colonies, but the quantity of English wool is limited. For

all kinds we have a very firm demand, at fully the late improvement in value.

INDIGO.—The present stock is only 12,842 chests, against 19,813 chests last year. A fair demand has been experienced for all kinds, and, in some instances, prices have an upward tendency.

COTTON.—Rather more money has been paid, with a firm demand. Surat, 1d. to 5d.; Bengal, 3½d. to 4½d.; Madras, 3½d. to 5d. per lb.

HEMP AND FLAX.—Both Hemp and Flax are tolerably firm, at full quotations.

HOPS.—We have no change to notice in the demand for, or value of, any kind.

POTATOES.—The supplies are reasonably good, and the demand is inactive, at very 35s. to 90s. per ton.

OILS.—Lard oil is very dull, at 31s. 6d. on the spot, and 30s. for forward delivery. Turpentine is heavy; Spirits, 32s. to 34s.; rough, 9s. to 9s. 9d. per cwt.

TALLOW.—Palm oil is 1s. per cwt. higher than last week. P. A. C. on the spot, 4s. 8d. per cwt. The stock is now 23,231 casks, against 33,211 do. in 1854, and 23,847 in 1853.

COALS.—Balt Walcott, 18s. to 19s. 6d.; other sorts, 16s. to 17s. 6d. per ton.

LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11.

BANKRUPT.—PETER MELLISH, New Bond Street, and Wardour Street, trunk maker—JOHN JOSEPH DRAKE, Wimbledon, victualler—GEORGE HANMAN, Bethnal Green Road, confectioner—GEORGE WILSON, Northampton Street, Lower Road, Reformed victualler—WILLIAM RICHARD DRAKE, North Walsham, Norfolk, coach builder—GEORGE SIMMONS, Fore Street, Cripplegate carpet and rug manufacturer—BERNARD SIMMONS, Ryde, Gosport Street North, Gray's Inn Road, paper-stainer—WILLIAM BAKER, Comberton, Cambridgeshire, blacksmith—CHARLES KIDINGTON GILL, Castle Hedingham, Essex, chemist—CHARLES SPENCER, Birmingham, draper—GEORGE WILLIAM VATER, Townbridge, currier—WILLIAM JACKSON, Sheffield, brush manufacturer—EDWARD RHAM, Kingston-upon-Hull, currier—JOHN OSTLER, Kingston-upon-Hull, merchant—JAMES BUXTON, Rochdale, cotton spinner.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—T. G. JACK, Brechin, provision merchant—T. DUNN, Glasgow, general grocer—R. B. MATTHEWSON, Stirling, painter—J. CAMPBELL, Kingussie, general merchant.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15.

BANKRUPTcies ANNULLED.—THOMAS COOPER, Wootton, Isle of Wight, farmer—ROBERT PRICE, Piccadilly, Middlesex, iron manufacturer.

BANKRUPT.—NATHANIEL WARD, Farringdon Market, dealer in potatoes—AUGUSTUS JOHN PHILLIPS, Oakley Street, Chelsea, shipowner—COLPITTS HARRISON, Liverpool, wine merchant—THOMAS BAILS, Nicholas Lane, Lombard Street, City, commission agent—ISAAC GUNTON, Manca, Isle of Ely, grocer—THOMAS HARRISON, Chancery Lane, City, and Escher, Surrey, tailor and church decorator—GEORGE STANTON, Toriano Street, Kentish Town, woollen draper—DANIEL DAVIES, Cardiff, provision and general dealer—JAMES FLOOD the younger, and CORNELIUS ROBERT SCHALLER, Charles Street, Middlesex Hospital, auctioneers—JOHN TAYLOR, jun., Woolwich, licensed victualler—JOHN JOSEPH DIAPER (and not DRAPER, as advertised in last Friday's "Gazette") Massell Arms Tavern, Wimbledon, Surrey, victualler.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—JAMES WATT, Glasgow, outfitter—JOHN MORRISON, Dublin, builder—JAMES TELLIS, Glasgow, builder.

WATCH MANUFACTORY, 33, Ludgate Hill, London. Established 1749. J. W. BENSON, manufacturer of Gold and Silver Watches of every description, construction, and pattern, from Two to Sixty Guineas each. A new pamphlet of sketches and prices sent free on application. A two-years' warranty given with every watch, and sent (carriage-paid) to Scotland, Ireland, Wales, or any part of the kingdom, upon receipt of post-office or banker's order. Gold, Silver, and Old Watches taken in Exchange.

SILVER WATCHES, £2 2s. to £2 15s., to £5. Highly finished movements, jewelled, &c., with all the recent improvements. Patent detached English Lever movements, jewelled, strong double-backed cases, £3 10s., £4 4s., £5 5s., to £15 15s.—J. W. BENSON, 33, Ludgate Hill.

GOLD WATCHES, £3 15s., £5 5s., to £15 15s. Horizontal movements, jewelled with all the recent improvements. Patent detached lever movements, jewelled, engraved, or engine-turned cases, £6 6s., £8 8s., £10 10s., £12 12s., £14 14s., to 60 Guineas.—J. W. BENSON, 33, Ludgate Hill.

MOORE'S LEVER WATCHES, made on the premises, £5 5s., £6 6s., £7 7s. Gold do., £10. Gold Horizontal, £13 10s. Silver do., £3 2s. Levers, 10 holes jewelled, £3 10s., warranted. 37, Holborn Hill. Established 1835. Brief elucidation of the Lever Watch, gratis.

MUSICAL BOXES BY NICOLE FRERES.—An Immense Stock at WALES & McCULLOCH'S, 32, Ludgate Street, St. Paul's. Largest sizes, £1 per air. Snuff-boxes, two airs, 18s.; three, 30s.; four, 40s. Catalogue of Tunes and Prices gratis and post-free on application. Musical Boxes cleaned and repaired by skilful foreign workmen.

TOLKIN'S 25-GUINEA ROYAL MINUTO PIANOFORTES, compass 6½ octaves.—H. T. the original maker of a 25-guinea pianoforte, has, by the care he has devoted to all branches of the manufacture, obtained the highest reputation throughout the universe for his instruments, unequalled in durability and delicacy of touch, more especially for their excellency in standing in tune in the various climates of our colonies. In elegant walnut, rosewood, and mahogany cases. H. T. Tolkin's manufactory, 27 to 29, King William Street, London Bridge.

DRAWING AND DINING-ROOM FURNITURE, CARPETS, and BEDDING.—The most extensive and varied Stock in the Metropolis now exhibiting in the spacious Show Rooms of ROBERT FISHER & Co., corner of Finsbury Square.

FIRST-CLASS DRAWING, DINING, and BED-ROOM FURNITURE of the choicest materials, in the best taste, at prices charged by many houses for inferior goods. Estimates free. C. NOSOTTI, 295 and 309, Oxford Street, London.

LOOKING GLASSES of every description, of the best quality, at the lowest possible prices. C. NOSOTTI, 295 and 309, Oxford Street, London (Established 1822), has the most extensive assortment of the above always ready for delivery. Designs on receipt of Six Stamps. Regilding in all its branches.

GLASS LUSTRES for Gas and Candles, Gas Chandeliers, Hall Lanterns, &c. Every article marked with plain figures. HULST & Co., 65, High Holborn. Pattern-book with price-list, price 12s.

PAPER HANGINGS.—The Cheapest House in London for every known style of Paper Hangings, is Cross's Wholesale Warehouse, 20, Great Portland Street, Oxford Street, where the Public and the Trade are supplied from the largest and most extensive assortment in the Kingdom. Commencing at 12 yards for 6d.

A GOOD FAMILY MEDICINE CHEST, with a prudent use, has saved many a life; and yet we think the idea might be improved upon, and reduced to a more simple form. Take some good compound, such as COCKLE'S ANTIBILIOUS PILLS, and we find that the desired end may be obtained without scales and weights, or little mysterious compartments and enclaved bottles, with crystal stoppers. Others might be used, but Cockle's Pills, as tested by many thousands of persons, and found to answer their purpose so well, may be set down as the best.—Observer.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—This celebrated Old Irish Whisky is highly recommended as the most delicious and wholesome spirit, either for mixing or for medicinal purposes. It is perfectly pure, very mild, and, being mellowed with age, is free from those fiery or heating qualities so much objected to in other spirits. Can be obtained in sealed bottles, 5s. 6d. each, at all the respectable retail houses in London and its vicinity, from the appointed agents in the principal towns in England; or, wholesale, from KINAHAN, SONS, and SMYTH, 8, Great Windmill Street, Haymarket.

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THE REAL ALPINE KID GLOVE TRADE,
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Messrs. R. and O., the only appointed Agents in England
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 The price
 One Shilling per Pair.

No. 1. Super quality, the most durable Glove manufactured
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 Finest Swiss Cambrics, 3s. 6d. the Full Dress.
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 Ladies' Night Dresses, work warranted, 6 for 13s. 6d.
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 Higher class goods proportionately cheap, and the largest
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BAKER and CRISP, being the first that ever introduced
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